Oregon Tech signs reverse transfer degree

By HOLLY DILLEMUTH H&N Staff Reporter | Posted: Saturday, July 12, 2014 12:00 am

Oregon Tech recently partnered with Clackamas Community College to allow students the chance to earn credit for an associate’s degree from CCC while they pursue a bachelor’s degree at Oregon Tech.

Oregon Tech President Chris Maples and CCC President Joanne Truesdell launched the Reverse Transfer Degree with a signing ceremony Thursday at the Oregon City CCC campus. The pilot program is an effort to increase degree attainment and help prepare graduates for the workforce.

“Today’s students move frequently between two- and four-year colleges and universities to earn a degree, so it’s important to have options that recognize this reality,” Maples said in a press release.

The agreement between Oregon Tech and CCC provides students who have attended both CCC and Oregon Tech with an associate’s degree, awarding them for work completed at CCC.

The Reverse Transfer program acknowledges students’ achievements with an associate’s degree after they have transferred to a four-year university, according to a press release. Graduates also are able to reflect a more broad and accurate view of their skills on their resumes.

“Establishing a reverse transfer program between CCC and Oregon Tech has tremendous value for students and for Oregon’s workforce,” Maples said. “In today’s job market, graduates need to show the scope of their educational background, and having an associate’s degree credential shows the real depth of their skill set.”

There are no additional costs to students to apply for and receive the reverse transfer degree. The degree is awarded from CCC once the accumulated credits are reached at Oregon Tech.

Colleges and universities also benefit from the reverse transfer program. Community college completion rates will more accurately reflect the investment of time, resources and support that two-year institutions have in the students who transfer prior to degree completion. These institutions will gain credit for the degrees in their completion outcomes, create closer transfer collaborations with four-year institutions, and gain alumni who feel a greater connection to the community college.

“The old pattern of education first and work later no longer holds,” said CCC president Joanne Truesdell. “Most students are also workers. Having an associate’s degree while studying for the bachelor’s shows employers that students are ready to enter their chosen field, even while they pursue further education.”

Oregon Tech has campuses in Klamath Falls and Wilsonville. Clackamas Community College has campuses in Wilsonville, Oregon City and North Clackamas.

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