Working students benefit from Clackamas Community College 'reverse transfer' degree

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The Oregon Institute of Technology in Wilsonville offers several four-year degrees. (The Oregonian/2012)

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A "reverse transfer" agreement between Clackamas Community College and the Oregon Institute of Technology will enable students to receive an associate's degree after they have transferred to a four-year program.

Joanne Truesdell, president of Clackamas Community College, said the interim degree should help students who are already in the workforce document their increasing skills and value to employers.

"The old pattern of education first and work later no longer holds," Truesdell said in a press release. "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."

College officials say having two degrees on students’ resumes reflects a broader, more accurate view of the skills and training received over time, giving students an edge in the labor market.

The reverse transfer agreement is a pilot program that applies only to Clackamas Community College and the Oregon Institute of Technology, and only for the 2013-2014 and 2014-15 academic years.

Oregon Institute of Technology offers degree programs in engineering and health technologies, management, communication and applied sciences. The college has a full-service, residential campus in Klamath Falls and an urban, industry-focused campus in Wilsonville.

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