

This project, *Improving Student Success through Student-Centric, Data-Driven Decisions*, will implement four evidence-based strategies to ultimately improve first-term and first-year retention of students at Central Oregon Community College (COCC) located in Bend, Oregon. While all COCC students will be impacted, there is a heightened focus on improving educational outcomes for student of color and low-income students. Strategies to be implemented include: 1) the development of a unified data analytics system; 2) expansion of a Guided Pathways strategy that will help students explore, plan, and complete academic programs aligned with their career and education goals efficiently and affordably; 3) establishment of a Teaching and Learning Center that focuses on improving teaching strategies for COCC faculty related to online and hybrid courses, culturally-responsive education, and development of class schedules that fit the needs of students; and 4) development of a Student Resource Center where all services for low-income students will be housed including a Benefits Navigator (to help students access existing government and non-profit support services), a Food Bank, a Clothing Connection (free career wear), and special services for students who are eligible for the Supplementary Nutritional Assistance Program. The project will address all three competitive priorities as well as the invitational priority. Development of this project came as a result of over a year of planning work started at the conclusion of COCC's last Strengthening Institutions Program grant (implemented 2015-2021). Planning was conducted with extensive faculty, staff, student, and community input. Project activities are built to result in increased self-sufficiency and capacity for COCC to serve low-income students and students of color by improving and strengthening the College's academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability. Additionally, project activities are designed specifically to be sustained beyond grant funding. An external evaluator will provide a formative and summative project evaluation throughout the project period, helping to ensure project outcomes are achieved.