The public agenda provides a better understanding of the critical policy issues, goals and objectives that shape the direction of the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and describes the major initiatives that are in place to achieve the policy objectives.

Key Policy Goals & Objectives

Goals
- Increase the number of college graduates.
- Enhance access and improve the quality of public higher education for all Oklahomans.
- Better prepare students to meet the challenges of a global economy.

Objectives
- Implement Complete College America initiatives to increase the number of degrees and certificates earned in Oklahoma by 67% by 2023.
- Enhance capacity to successfully enroll, retain and graduate students.
- Increase systemwide efficiencies and cost savings.
- Strengthen financial support for Oklahoma college students.
- Improve instructional quality and mathematics success.
- Utilize performance funding to enhance student success and academic quality.
- Target economic development activities to support economic growth.
- Advance access to and quality of technologies to support systemwide programs and services.

Key Initiatives

Task Force on the Future of Higher Education
The State Regents’ Task Force on the Future of Higher Education conducted a comprehensive assessment of Oklahoma public higher education, including academic models, online education, structure, fiscal services, operational efficiencies, workforce development, and information technology. After 10 months of study and deliberations, the Task Force unanimously issued a set of comprehensive cost saving, innovative strategies to increase degree completion in our state.

Oklahoma’s Promise
Oklahoma’s Promise is recognized by many as America’s best college access program and is considered a model that combines emphases on academic preparation and financial support for college. In FY 2019, 15,908 students received Oklahoma’s Promise scholarships, and nearly 90,000 students have earned the scholarship since the program’s inception.

Concurrent Enrollment
The concurrent enrollment program allows outstanding juniors and seniors to earn college credit while still in high school, which strengthens student preparation, reduces family college costs, and decreases the time required to complete a degree. In the last academic year, there were over 13,000 students enrolled in concurrent courses, generating more than 122,000 credit hours.
OKcollegestart.org
The state’s web-based college planning portal for students, parents, adult learners and educators empowers students to create individual portfolios, explore career options and campuses, prepare for the ACT and SAT exams, and apply online for Oklahoma’s Promise, among other features. Site content is available in multiple languages, and a companion site allows educators to develop system-defined Individual Career Academic Plans (ICAP) and send and receive electronic transcripts.

GEAR UP
Oklahoma GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), the fourth consecutive federally funded grant program administered by the State Regents, is designed to prepare middle and high school students for college success through direct student support services, including college campus tours, ACT preparation and testing, college exploration courses and one-on-one guidance from school specialists.

Adult Degree Completion
Two distinct programs are available through Reach Higher, the state system adult degree completion initiative. Through Reach Higher’s FlexFinish program, 21 institutions offer flexible class options and enrollment to meet the needs of working adults pursuing a Reach Higher associate or bachelor’s degree. Reach Higher: DirectComplete offers comprehensive services and support to adult students returning to pursue degree programs at 12 participating institutions that lead to employment in Oklahoma’s critical occupations.

OneNet
OneNet operates Oklahoma’s most advanced technology network to provide the infrastructure to support high-speed broadband services at an equitable rate. OneNet provides the technology and connectivity necessary to meet the mission-critical needs of Oklahoma’s colleges and universities in support of advanced academic research programs. In addition, OneNet serves K-12 and career technology schools; public libraries; local, tribal, state and federal governments; health care providers; and nonprofit organizations.

Online Education Task Force
The Online Education Task Force’s primary areas of focus are to eliminate barriers to online education, encourage educational innovation while maintaining academic rigor across multiple learning platforms, provide professional development for faculty teaching online and open educational resources to reduce costs for students.

Campus Safety and Security Task Force
The State Regents’ Campus Safety & Security Task Force supports best practices for public and private institutions and technology centers through targeted training and partnerships with key state agencies, including the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security, and the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

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