

Chair Report, Steve Loosley  
November 9, 2019

**Legion Field.** As some of you may know, I am volunteering with American Legion to help with the construction of the new turf project. The grading and base are complete, and we're waiting for the turf installer. Soon the Riverhawk baseball team will practice at Legion Field.

**UCC Truck Parking.** UCC currently parks the trucks we use for driver training at the old Doug's Diesel lot at the Round Prairie interchange south of Roseburg. The site is owned by the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians. The Tribe has graciously allowed UCC to use the lot at no cost, but understandably, they asked us to find a new location. Guy Kennerly and I have joined a broad coalition of trucking industry representatives and community leaders to help secure a new and permanent facility.

**OCCA Conference.** I joined Dr. Thatcher and Director Lathrop for the annual OCCA conference, where we listened to presentations about diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the upcoming legislative short session. Additionally, the conference provided the chance to talk to college leaders to learn from their experiences.

One opportunity that I'm excited to explore is called the [Pipeline to Jobs](#), a collaborative initiative with LBCC and their business partners. Stay tuned for details. One additional takeaway came from a retired community college president. She left me with the following thought. "It's not your college or the faculty's or administration's. It's the *community's* college. You need to keep asking, What does the community want?"

**Reading Shelf.** In June 2019, the Oregon Business Council, in collaboration with the State of Oregon and the Oregon Community Foundation, entered into an agreement with Opportunity Insights to advance policies that increase the opportunity for Oregon children and families to increase their level of income and wellbeing. Opportunity Insights released [their first report](#) last month. The report compares how effectively Oregon higher education institutions help students in the lowest income levels get out of poverty. Personally, I'm glad to see the HECC give attention to poverty. It's disappointing that our accrediting body ignores income when breaking down data for student achievement, when the research shows strong correlation between income and student success.