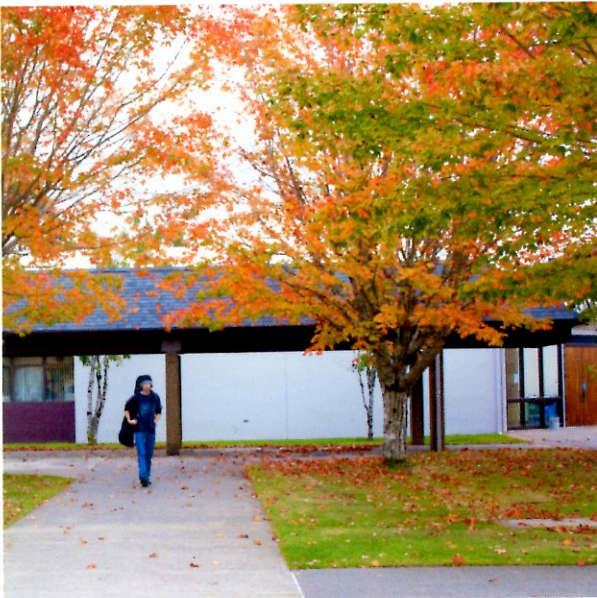


In 1941, the Oregon Legislature provided a way to organize post-high school job training institutions in the State. However, no funding accompanied this bill either, and it led to rather meager results. In 1949, the Legislature allowed local school districts to create extension centers for the purpose of offering college-level courses. These programs were generally held in the evenings at local high schools, but no official campus or taxing district was formed. The State was still not focused on Dr. Parnell's "Neglected Majority."

In 1947, the Oregon Legislature provided a special appropriation to fund the creation of what was known then as the Oregon Technical School on 822 acres at an old Marine military facility in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Some 800 students enrolled when the doors opened in July of that year. It became known as Oregon Institute of Technology in 1957, but no other two-year college would emerge under the Act.



In 1951, the Oregon Legislature created the State Board of Education to oversee K-12 education as well as the State's community colleges. House Bill 143, known as the Junior College Plan for Oregon, required that any two-year college district formed must be part of the public education system in the State. However, no college districts were formed under this original Act until certain amendments were added six years later. The major amendment that was added allowed college districts to form districts that were independent of the State Board of Higher Education, but would still be part of the general public education system of Oregon. Programs were started in Bend and Klamath Falls that were extension centers of learning under the University of Oregon. Instructors would teach two nights in Bend then drive to Klamath Falls and teach classes for two nights.

Shortly thereafter, the Bend School District Board of Education called for a special election to form a community college district under the State Department of Education System for their region. The vote was positive, but no other college district would form until further legislation was passed allowing community college districts to form with independent boards of directors elected from candidates from within the district to set operating policies for the college. It was into this political environment that Henry Hansen, a longshoreman from Coos Bay, stepped up and launched his effort for a local community college in southwestern Oregon.

In 1959, Oregon Senate Bill 260 was introduced that again provided for the creation of 13 independent community college districts within the State. These college districts could be formed outside the System of Higher Education, each with its own elected board of directors. These college districts would offer comprehensive community college programs that included vocational education and lower division transfer courses, as well as other adult education programs for people who were no longer subject to the compulsory school law. Counseling and guidance services would also be part of the community college program. Again the results were dismal due to the lack of State funding to support the legislation, but at least Oregon was developing a system of community colleges. ⁽³⁾