

Press Release

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Governor Proclaims March as College & Career Exploration Month in Oregon

Oregon – Oregon Governor Tina Kotek has officially proclaimed March 2026 as **College & Career Exploration Month**, recognizing the critical importance of preparing Oregon students for success after high school. The proclamation highlights Oregon’s commitment to strengthening the state’s long-term economic vitality by ensuring that all students—especially those who may be the first in their families to pursue education beyond high school—have access to early and ongoing exposure to college and career options. [View the College and Career Exploration Month 2026 Proclamation PDF.](#)

Throughout March, middle and high schools statewide are hosting events designed to help students explore opportunities for education, training and employment after graduation. Schools are engaging students with career fairs, classroom activities, guest speakers, workshops, and hands-on exploration experiences that help them make informed decisions about their future pathways.

College & Career Exploration Month is sponsored by **Oregon Goes To College**, a statewide initiative of **Oregon GEAR UP**. Schools participating in the initiative receive free technical assistance and access to toolkits, planning guides, communication materials, and classroom activities for grades 6–12. Schools can join the statewide effort at any time.

“When students have opportunities to explore their options early and often, they build the confidence and clarity needed to pursue fulfilling futures,” said *Adrienne Enriquez, Director of Oregon GEAR UP*. “This month shines a spotlight on meaningful exploration—because every Oregon student deserves the knowledge, support, and resources to understand the wide range of education and training pathways available to them.”

Oregon Goes To College encourages all schools to participate and celebrates the many educators, counselors and community partners who make these experiences possible.

For more information about College & Career Exploration Month—and to access free toolkits and resources—visit: oregongoestocollege.org/events/college-and-career-exploration-month

About Oregon Goes To College

Oregon Goes To College is the go-to source for information on preparing for education after high school. It is a statewide initiative of Oregon GEAR UP.

About Oregon GEAR UP

Oregon GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federally funded program through the U.S. Department of Education that helps middle and high school students prepare for and succeed in after high school. It is supported by Oregon State University.

