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PRESS RELEASE

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Source: Juan Baez-Arevalo, Director, Private Postsecondary Education, HECC

Press Release: With ITT Tech's closure, State sends guidance to Oregon students

Salem, Oregon: Following [ITT's announcement yesterday of its immediate closure](#), the State of Oregon is stepping in to inform local students of their options for moving forward with their degrees. ITT is a national for-profit chain of colleges with two Oregon campuses, located in Salem and Portland, that are authorized to offer associate and bachelor's degrees by the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). HECC staff have reached out to current Oregon ITT Technical Institute students to ensure they are informed of their current options as consumers and learners.

After learning of the closure, HECC's Office of Private Postsecondary Education provided a [notice to Oregon students of ITT Technical Institute by email on September 6, and that notice has been updated to reflect the most recent information here](#). The notice includes specific information on:

- **Transfer of credit to other schools:** The HECC has been pro-actively working with several schools to identify transfer and completion options, including Mt. Hood Community College, Portland Community College, and Chemeketa Community College. Students should work directly

with receiving institutions of interest to apply and have their transcripts evaluated for possible transfer credit.

- **Transcripts:** The notice describes specific processes and links for obtaining transcripts now and in the future. A transcript will be necessary for the receiving school to make determinations with regard to transfer of credit.
- **Federal Student Aid:** The United States Department of Education recommends that any student considering a transfer to another institution go to the [FAFSA website](#) and add the school/s that they are considering, so that information can be sent quickly to schools of interest.
- **Loan Discharge, U.S. Department of Education:** See the notice for who to contact to explore possible eligibility for student loan discharge.
- **Surety Bond Information:** Students who were enrolled at the ITT Technical Institute, Portland or Salem campus as of Tuesday, September 6, 2016, may be entitled to a tuition refund under the terms of a Surety Bond obtained by ITT Educational Services, Inc. See the notice for who to contact.
- **Contacts for questions regarding veterans benefits**
- **Key contacts in Oregon on state regulation and more**

ITT's closure announcement follows a decision last week by the United States Department of Education (US DOE) to impose new restrictions related to participation in federal financial aid programs. Prior to yesterday's announcement, HECC had already begun mapping guidance for students in the event of closure, including proactively requesting student contact information and other specific information from the school.

ITT Technical Institute was one of nine private postsecondary institutions in Oregon accredited by ACICS (The Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools), an accrediting body that is itself under federal scrutiny. The U.S. Department of Education received a recommendation from NACIQI (National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality) in June to deny continued recognition to this accreditor. Pending a final determination, HECC requested a detailed description from each of the nine ACICS-accredited institutions of their proposals for action in response to this recommendation.

All postsecondary institutions under HECC jurisdiction must apply for re-authorization to the HECC Office of Degree Authorization (ODA) every two years, and an application for re-authorization of ITT'S programs was under review by the HECC at the time of the announcement. As of August 29, the Portland campus had 483 students enrolled in nine different programs. The Salem campus was already in a process of "teach-out" by which programs for existing students are completed to finish before closure, and had 72 students enrolled in six programs.

The HECC's primary focus is to ensure that Oregon students are aware of their options, including viable options to continue their work toward credentials and degrees. The current notice to students and any future notices can be found on our website at www.oregon.gov/highered.

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