



# EQUITY ACTION COMMITTEE

*newsletter and resources for students, staff and faculty*

## Who We are

**Purpose:** Create a campus climate which encourages, promotes and supports equity awareness, starts conversations, and creates a safe environment where welcoming differences and providing equitable access for all is part of our core values.

## What We Do

**Mission:** Provide training and support for students, staff, faculty members and members of the community on the issues of equity and inclusion. Create and foster an environment in which all individuals feel welcome, appreciated, and valued.

## The EAC Believes in

- advocating for equitable policies and educational practices
- encouraging personal accountability
- creating community awareness
- facilitating open communication.

## Trending Issue: College Admission Equity

The efficacy of using standardized test scores as part of the college admissions process has sparked national debate. In addition to relying on testing processes with proven bias, critics argue the ACT and SAT fail to evaluate students' academic abilities.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, many colleges and universities made ACT/SAT score submissions optional for applicants. The University of California made CNN News when they chose to make their suspension permanent and create an admissions test that better aligns with their institutional values. This article from Inside Higher Ed discusses how the change could have a national impact.

## Want More Ideas?

Education specialist Brennan Barnard goes beyond testing to make admissions more equitable in this issue of Forbes.

## Why Attend Community College?

For this month's column, Associated Student Government member Ryan Lawrence discusses a number of reasons he chose CGCC.

### Our Own Voices

By Ryan Lawrence  
*CGCC Student*

Community college has provided me with many opportunities that I feel a bigger university would not. First, I have a much greater ability to stand out, which makes it easier to assert myself professionally.

In my short time at Columbia Gorge Community College, I have been welcomed into the Associated Student Government, sat on the Foundation Board of the College as a student liaison, and also planned events and many other things worthy of putting on a resume.

Secondly, the classes are smaller and much more personal. This allows students more time with the instructors. For me, this is a big deal; I am working hard to pay for my degree, so it is very satisfying to have that accessibility to my instructors. I always receive same day replies on emails, as well as reminders to things I may have overlooked.

Student services are the same way--very accessible to all students.

Lastly, the class schedules are much more flexible, and available at a community college. Being a multi-generational student body, most students are working at least part time jobs.

When enrolling in classes, I notice that there are always a couple choices of times for each course. This is partly due to the fact that our diverse campus has two locations, serving residents of the gorge in two different counties. Being that they are only about a half hour drive apart, most students can pick classes at both locations.

There are many other benefits to starting your degree at a community college. Degrees are obtained faster a lot of the time because students can take extra classes, due to the low cost. The list goes on, but these are the reasons for me.

What will your reasons be?

### We All Have A Story

We invite all members of the CGCC community to share their personal journey. To contribute your equity story email [eac@cgcc.edu](mailto:eac@cgcc.edu).

This committee is here to provide support and offer resources.