



the oregon consortium &  
oregon workforce alliance

## Summer 2010 Update

July 1, 2010

Published by the Oregon Workforce Alliance Communications and Membership Committee

### In This Issue

**New Member Orientation**  
US DOL Announces \$2.6M Grant  
to TOC/OWA  
**More Good News**  
National Career Readiness  
Certificate

### Member Orientation / Re- Orientation

Back by popular demand --well almost! After several fits and starts and a lot of confusion we have scheduled and cancelled a web based orientation session twice! Special thanks to OWA member Robin Popp and Art Hill for their patience with this process.

Recognizing just how busy EVERYONE is this summer - we will put off a formal orientation session until after the July Board meetings. New members (and applicants) will receive orientation materials from our office directly - and we would welcome the opportunity to go through those materials with you over lunch or coffee.

### Oregon Underwater and Volcanic Exploration Team - 2010

We are pleased to be offering this exciting opportunity to rural youth again this summer. OUVET is the direct result of a

Dear TOC and OWA Members, Staff and Affiliates,

What a difference a year makes. Last year at this time our system was in the midst of delivering the biggest summer youth employment program in more than a decade and working with sufficient resources to serve the never ending stream of dislocated workers - thanks to the investment of ARRA resources in the Workforce Investment system.

TOC, the OWA and our providers took the charge of the President and Congress to heart . . . to utilize the resources made available to us during that time of crisis to serve those hurt worst by the economic downturn. Our rural system did a wonderful job with those resources - as CEO *I could not be more proud of how our staff and providers worked diligently to collectively provide one of the most outstanding summer programs in the Nation and to engage thousands of dislocated workers and job seekers in meaningful skills upgrades and training, preparing the workforce for the economic opportunities of tomorrow.*

Today, the horizon looks different. While rural Oregon is still waist deep in the recession - resources from the federal government have reverted more quickly than anticipated, to the status-quo levels of pre-recession 2008. As a result of this rapid disinvestment we are collectively struggling to maintain the balance between - portals for services (offices), staff, and investments in clients to provide and support job training and education, as well as to continue to support Area-wide endeavors such as New Oregon Trails, all of which we believe are important to rural Oregon's economic future.

We are doing everything in our power to bring in additional resources to help bolster our struggling regions and programs - and there is beginning to be some pay off! Please read on to learn more about how we are helping rural Oregon work!

Sincerely,

Kris Latimer  
Chief Executive Officer

partnership with Linn Benton Community College. Similar to last year - this summer four teams of teens and young adults will participate as members of this unique research, exploration and development oriented team project, during one week excursions lead by scientists, physicists and curious about science and technology adult advisers. The project base camp is established at Paulina Lake - located in the Newberry Caldera. If you are interested in an adventure this summer - this is the thing for you. [Use this link to access details including registration materials, dates, etc.](#)

#### Upcoming Meetings

July 13 - TOC Executive Committee members and OWA Leadership - Special Meeting; TOC Admin Office; 10-3

July 21 - National Workforce Association Legislative Briefing - Washington DC

[July 29 - TOC Board of Directors - Regular Meeting; TOC Admin Office; 11 - 4](#)

July 29 - Gubernatorial Candidate Forum - Albany Location TBD; 5:00 - 7:00

[July 30 - Oregon Workforce Alliance Summer Meeting;](#)

## US DOL ANNOUNCES \$2.6 MILLION GRANT TO ASSIST WORKERS IN RURAL OREGON

On Tuesday night (June 29) we learned that US DOL announced that our application for a \$2,571,600 Regional Economic Impact Grant had been awarded in its full amount! Labor Secretary Hilda Solis had this to say, "Today's grant will give workers in Oregon access to indispensable re-employment and re-training services while also investing in promising sectors of the state's economy."

The funds will provide us with the flexibility to serve workers affected by layoffs within our Area over the next 9 months. A portion of the grant (nearly 20%) will be used to develop a regional plan concerning the Area's economic depth, diversity and interconnectivity. This plan will support our New Oregon Trails efforts.

We are very pleased about these additional resources - TOC and OWA leadership will discuss the allocation of these resources at their July 13 special meeting.

For additional information please contact [Kris Latimer](#).

### More Good News:

Resource development has been occurring on a variety of fronts and TOC/OWA will benefit from several grants resources which have just recently been confirmed:

- [The Oregon Workforce Partnership](#) (our association of Local Workforce Investment Boards) initiated a conversation with the Department of Human Services to explore a potential partnership to provide summer employment services for youth enrolled in TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). A small statewide pilot was the final product of the discussion - total resources available for our 24 county area is \$115,500. These resources have been allocated to the regions and will support employment opportunities for 2-4 youth per region this summer.
- We learned last week that our statewide application for a National Emergency Grant - specifically to support on-the-job training (OJT) opportunities, was funded by the US Department of Labor. DOL made this grant opportunity available only to States as applicants - but true to form, we worked together as a system and together, put in a winning application. Awards were made to dozens of states, but Oregon's was the 10th largest, at \$2.1 Million (California was largest at nearly \$9M). How this resource will be allocated to the seven workforce areas is yet to be determined.
- The Oregon Department of Transportation has been working with Community Colleges and Workforce Development and the Oregon Workforce Partnership to move some ARRA resources - setaside for outreach to specific populations, in specific parts of the state - out to our workforce system. We will be participating in this effort with resources made available for Regions 12, 13 and 14. The goal of the project is to inform underserved populations about construction careers and when / where appropriate connect those individuals to

[Phoenix Inn - Albany:](#)  
[9:00 - 1:00](#)

For information about meetings and events within the Consortium and beyond - visit our [website](#).

#### Recommended Reading



From the Economist:  
[Too narrow, too soon?](#)  
[America's misplaced disdain for vocational education.](#)

From the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University:  
[Help Wanted - Projections of Jobs and Education Requirements Through 2018](#)

training, education and employment opportunities. Exact funding amounts are unclear at this time.

## National Career Readiness Certificate to Roll-Out Statewide

Planning teams across Oregon are working on regional plans to roll-out the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). This effort is in response to action in the last legislative session which supported a state-wide roll out of the NCRC.

The NCRC is a four-tiered (bronze, silver, gold, platinum) certification that measures career readiness. The NCRC is a portable, national credential that verifies to employers anywhere in the United States that an individual has essential core employability skills in Reading, Math and Locating Information. The National Career Readiness Certificate is the national standard in certifying workplace skills.

#### What is the NCRC used for?

Screening - Employers interview only applicants who have the skills required for the job.

Hiring and promotion - A NCRC can be used as a "plus" factor to help make selection and promotion decisions.

Targeting employee training and development - Employers can target their training budgets for job-specific skills rather than basic skills.

Additional information is available at the Projects page on our [website](#).

This e-newsletter could go on and on - for more information about what is happening in our 24 counties, around the state and across the nation visit our website at <http://www.tocowa.org>.

Thanks and Happy Summer!

#### [Forward email](#)

#### ✉ [SafeUnsubscribe®](#)

This email was sent to kris@tocowa.org by [kris@tocowa.org](mailto:kris@tocowa.org).  
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



The Oregon Consortium & Oregon Workforce Alliance | 260 Ferry St., SW Suite 202 | Albany | OR | 97321