

## Our Members

The Oregon Workforce Alliance presents the optimal opportunity to create a substantial and effective leadership network for rural Oregon. We are seeking members from business and industry who represent—

- Manufacturing
- Clean Energy / Renewables
- Banking / Financial Services
- Hospitality
- Healthcare
- Agriculture

Members are asked to attend two Board meetings a year and to participate actively on at least one committee. Committee meetings are via web-conference and require little if any travel.

If you are interested in participating as part of the Oregon Workforce Alliance—and in helping to assure rural Oregon's future, please contact Kris Latimer, Chief Executive Officer at [kris@tocowa.org](mailto:kris@tocowa.org) or 541.928.0241 x219.

“In spite of current ads and slogans, the world doesn't change one person at a time. *It changes as networks of relationships form among people who discover they share a common cause and vision of what's possible.* This is good news for those of us intent on changing the world and creating a positive future. Rather than worry about critical mass, our work is to foster critical connections. We don't need to convince large numbers of people to change; instead, we need to connect with kindred spirits. Through these relationships, we will develop the new knowledge, practices, courage, and commitment that lead to broad-based change.”

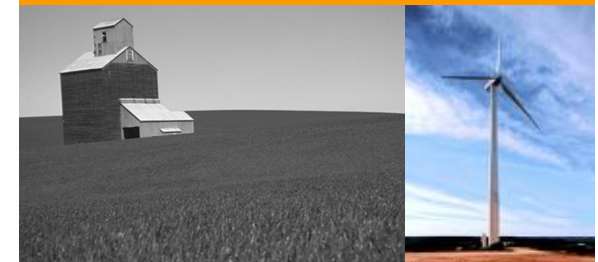
*Meg Wheatley, Speaker and California Workforce Association's Meeting of the Minds and Deborah Frieze via Virginia Hamilton – Executive Director, The California Workforce Association*



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## Helping Rural Oregon Work!



## What is TOC/OWA?

The Oregon Consortium (TOC) and Oregon Workforce Alliance (OWA) is a public/private partnership that was established by business leaders and public officials more than 25 years ago to help revitalize the economies of Oregon's twenty-four rural counties.

In 1981, local elected officials from Oregon's twenty-four rural counties created TOC as a conduit and organizing hub for federal workforce and economic development funds. In 2008-2009, TOC and its regional grant recipients will administer more than \$15 million dollars on behalf of the member counties. Each county appoints a local elected official (County Commissioner or Judge) to the TOC Board of Directors.

The other half of the partnership, OWA, consists of 48 members, a majority of which come from business and industry, and also include members representing the private-non-profit and public sectors. OWA is designated by the State of Oregon as a Workforce Investment Board for the purpose of receiving federal Workforce Investment Act funds.



In a blended fashion, these two bodies oversee the administration of the

Workforce Investment Act, and a variety of other grants and projects. The administrative office is located in Albany, and interacts with a network of regional grant recipients, service providers and regional workforce investment boards.

## THE FUTURE:

Our mission is to “**Help Rural Oregon Work**” through efforts that support our Vision for 2012:

*To be the driving force for an evolution in attitudes and behavior at every level, that embraces, the necessity for Oregon's citizens, business and industries to “skill up,” ultimately revolutionizing our rural economies.*

*This vision is supported by the development and targeted investment of revenues, curriculum, infrastructure, political pathways and partnerships.*

## CURRENT PROJECTS OF INTEREST:

In support of the Governor's Economic Development Agenda our organization is or has been involved with the following Industry Cluster Projects :

- Southern Oregon Wine Investment and New Employment (SO WINE) — Project in partnership with Umpqua Community College
- Supporting the New Forest Economy—Project with Woodproducts Manufacturers, Timber Growers and various educational entities
- Wind Turbine Technician—Project in partnership with Columbia Gorge Community College
- Eastern Oregon Lean Manufacturing Cluster— Project in exploration phase



For the past seven years we have provided the very successful and

award winning **Survivors Youth Leadership Experience** for teens enrolled in area WIA programs. This one week, co-ed leadership camp has *proven* that setting high expectations for youth and holding them accountable can change lives.

This summer we're breaking with tradition to build on our experience and try something new and will present our first Un-Conference. The Un-Conference will connect youth across the state using the latest in virtual technology.

The program's goal is help teens explore and develop internal assets—such as leadership, cooperation, team work, and creativity. Success in instilling these internal personal assets help teens to avoid risk behaviors (drug and alcohol abuse, pre-marital sex, etc.) that can cripple their futures.



Enrollment in the Un-conference will include seminars and classes, discussion groups and participation in the Survivor's On-Line Virtual Community.

Registration materials will be available soon at [www.tocowa.org/unconference2008.html](http://www.tocowa.org/unconference2008.html).