

**OPAS Steering Committee #17**  
**March 13, 2007**

**Attendees:** Bruce Schafer (OUS/ETIC), Dick Knight (Saturday Academy/ OPAS Prepare), Jeff Triplett (PCC), Jo Oshiro (OPAS/OUS), Ben Manny (NOISE/ OPAS Motivate), Jay Bockelman (OIT), Eileen Boerger (Agilis/ OPAS Motivate), Eda Davis-Butts (SMILE/ OPAS Succeed), Roger Rennekamp (4H), Tom Thompson (ODE)

*Italics represent activities since the meeting.*

**Meeting Notes**

**Workgroups:** All four workgroups have met.

- **Motivate:** (Ben and Eileen) The half-day kickoff meeting laid much groundwork for accomplishing something concrete this year. Breakout groups are working and people appear to be making progress. Bruce mentions getting the National Engineer's Month dinner program into our list of activities; research is needed to determine the sponsor.
- **Prepare:** (Dick) Discussion centered on:
  - How can we impact what goes on in the classroom?
    - (Bruce) Keep in mind the full spectrum of activities from a short lesson to a guest speaker to a one-week unit to one course to a suite of courses.
  - The opportunity for change because of the new math and science requirements – ensuring that new opportunities, curricula, classroom activities go beyond the traditional and affect test scores.
  - Texts, curricula (Bruce has provided a pile of them at this meeting.)
    - Discussion of PLTW as a candidate program – Jo provided some example lesson materials to Dick.
    - Jo – ask Tim Brower if there has been any discussion of social barriers for academic college-prep track students taking PLTW.
  - Possibly identify venues and teachers which are working well – case studies
    - Extensibility is important.
      - We need to discuss criteria for extensibility.
      - Dick would appreciate any insights Eda can offer.
  - Possible starting point - short profiles on exemplar people or programs; through this survey activity we want to be sure we are aware of what is going on, but stop short of paralysis of analysis.
  - We have a dichotomy:
    - Engaging a wider range of students, including academically competent but underperforming
    - Engaging the academic all-stars so they choose engineering, not law or medicine.
  - Bruce - 3 levels of benefit to OUS and Oregon

- Oregon students have opportunities anywhere
- Even if some students get educated elsewhere, some will come back to Oregon for employment
- Bring up enrollment at OUS and Oregon schools

We hope next meeting will translate that into more concrete action items.

- **Succeed: (Eda)** At its first meeting the workgroup reviewed recommendations from the fall OPAS Workshop and decided to develop presentation materials which can be tailored for presentation to a variety of audiences to help build the case for STEM education and enrichment in general and STEM diversity in particular, detailing opportunities for action and involvement by these audiences.
  - *The OPAS White Paper “Fostering STEM Diversity” has been released as an official document, with branding, and is available from the OPAS Master Resources List.*
  - Eda is drafting presentation materials – a set of slides and handouts. *These are available on the Succeed webpage for those interested; Eda would appreciate any feedback by April 20, 2007.*
  - Presentation venues were discussed
    - Possible OPAS event
      - (Dick) If we can engage influential leaders, this could be good.
    - Possible leveraging of SAOF opportunity to address administrators
    - Trying to identify characteristics of best venues to which to bring our message
    - *Tom Thompson has collated some info on relevant organizations and their conferences/meetings since the meeting, which Jo has posted on the Steering Committee webpage links table and the Workgroups webpage working documents tables. Organizations mentioned during the meeting:*
      - COSA – Council of Oregon School Administrators
      - CTAG – Closing the Achievement Gap
      - OCSTA – Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association
      - Math leaders
      - Science leaders (OSTA and others)
      - OACTE
      - GirlFEST
      - NW Youth Career Expo in Portland, whose history is tied to the trades but seems to be moving beyond that to manufacturing and engineering. Bruce agrees that we should at least make sure one of us attends to learn more. We’d like to know where the students come from – limited to the Metro area?
      - (Dick) Make sure NOISE gets connected to this calendar.

- **Pathways:** (Jo for Susan Boyanovsky) The Pathways current work is tightly focused on the development of presentation materials, including checking the underlying agreements and data, for a presentation of the Manufacturing Engineering Technology Career Pathway in Oregon to the Oregon Association of Career and Technical Educators (OACTE) in mid-April. The audience is expected to be mostly counselors, administrators, and some teachers. The message is that the pathway is well-articulated and working from high-school through the community colleges and on to OIT. OPAS support includes a webpage with presentation materials and additional references, and providing the branded presentation portfolios.
- OMSI has offered consulting assistance from their evaluation department if needed for workgroup activities. Contact Jo to make this connection.

### **Related Activities:**

- **NOISE** – Ben graciously agreed to give an extempore report on NOISE committee activity. OMSI is really taking the ball here and is very excited about driving this along, despite some severe scheduling hassles with initial meetings. Ray Vandiver and Marilyn Johnson of OMSI, PI's on the grant, were at the meeting and are taking leadership roles in the group. The NOISE leadership meeting discussed and approved a draft mission statement that is slightly different from the Texas ISEA model. NOISE is focused on organizing informals as a group so as to share best practices rather than prioritizing bridging informal to formal educators. They are just getting started, but there is lots of energy.
  - Did like the idea of an annual conference.
  - Concern about how to fund. Definitely want sustainable funding. Even a \$100 a year membership might be too much for some members.
    - (Dick, Bruce) There may be two upcoming opportunities for ETIC funding to “water the seed” via RFP.
  - Talked about companies that administer these multi-entity groups.
  - Talked about structure, presidents and past-presidents.
- **ETIC Day:** (Dick) compliments to the staff; he has heard great things about the ETIC Day displays in the Capitol and the briefing sheets.
- **OSEC:** (Bruce) Oregon Science Education Council met about two weeks ago and decided there is a need for them to exist, despite the existence of many other groups with similar/overlapping mandates. OSEC sees its role as the nexus of the science education world both formal and informal, and making sure that all constituencies stay connected. This makes them a good fit with NOISE. Bruce asked that they consider adding additional method to their approach, which they will consider in the future. Bruce requested recommendations for recruiting an Eastern Oregon representative to OSEC; Eda recommended Ken Dickey from Nyssa High School.
- **ODE Science Standards** – there may be a move afoot to institute grade-level science standards. Oregon has a history of implementing broad laundry-list

standards that are difficult to deal with in the classroom and achieve any depth of understanding. Tom will check on this; it may be part of a national movement. *Steve Day of the Prepare Workgroup has committed to drafting a white paper outlining the standards revision process currently underway for presentation at the next Prepare meeting April 17. He believes changing the assessments is key.*

### **External Funding – discussion continued from last meeting:**

Following an idea from the last meeting – the steering committee agreed that Bruce and Jo will develop a worksheet to poll the workgroups two funding approaches:

- How would you spend a hypothetical \$1 M?
  - Methods of recruiting funding should be driven by a strong sense of what you want funding for.
- What goals and criteria would the workgroup recommend for a \$400K RFP?
  - Bruce would like to be more focused than the last RFP; it is very hard to deduce the vision of OPAS from the projects funded by the 05-07 RFP. But he still wants to be open to the bolt of lightning.
  - This committee recommends some extensibility parameter.
  - Take a leaf from the venture capitalists and look for evangelizers with fire in the belly.
- (Eda) For both of the above, consider eligibility and categories of projects to support.

Additional funding considerations discussed:

- (Eda) SMILE recently hosted a site visit from a foundation that is looking for a long-term investment relationship rather than investing via RFPs.
- (Dick) Strategic investment needs to deal with extensibility issues. There is an unlimited supply of good things that can be done.
  - We want to look for the home runs like robotics. A discussion of the inception and growth of ORTOP ensued. ORTOP is highly volunteer-driven and delivers an extended experience to a growing number of kids at a cost of about \$50 per kid (organizational costs). Individual teams or members have additional costs.
- Ben is more interested in seeing funds go closer to where students are.
  - Pay bounties to students and teachers passing AP tests
  - Eda is concerned about the demographics of AP classes; rural and other underrepresented populations may not have or understand these opportunities.
  - Literally or figuratively look for output measures. By being very results oriented, you can be sure your first dollar moves you towards your goal.
- (Dick) Another measure of extensibility is enduring systemic change – permanent sustainable transition.
  - He believes that very many students reaching college are ill-prepared for the first year of college math and that colleges are not doing a good job at providing support infrastructures for those students.

- (Bruce) Consider both the number of students and the impact on students.
- Eda agreed to present the steering committee with a short tutorial on how to increase statewide capacity to respond to targeted opportunities from NSF, which requires much broader collaborations than we have so far been able to muster.

**Next meeting Tuesday April 10, 3:30 – 5:30**