



Oregon Pre-Engineering & Applied Sciences Initiative

OPAS Recap June 2008

The Oregon Pre-Engineering and Applied Sciences Initiative is an active partnership of industry, community, and education leaders committed to achieving the following vision for 2020: **that all Oregonians have the opportunity to choose and successfully pursue engineering or applied science as their field of study and career, thereby helping Oregon's industries innovate and prosper in the global economy.** OPAS Initiative members include representatives from K-12, community colleges, higher education, industry, non-profits, and the community. They are currently working on proposals to facilitate funding for programs and projects conducted by groups and institutions likely to be instrumental in achieving the OPAS vision.

Background: OPAS grew out of the Oregon's Engineering and Technology Industry Council (ETIC) that advises the Oregon University System (OUS) Chancellor and the Board of Higher Education on strategic investment in engineering and technology education to help fuel the Oregon economy. As part of ETIC's vision of leading and integrating engineering and technology-driven constituencies in Oregon, Bruce Schafer, Executive Director of ETIC, gathered more than 90 representatives from three educational sectors, government, industry and non-profit organizations for a two-day Oregon Pre-Engineering and Applied Sciences (OPAS) Strategic Planning Summit in September of 2005. Funded by ETIC, The Lemelson Foundation, and Intel Corporation, the purpose of the Summit was to craft a set of initial strategies to increase the number and academic preparedness of Oregon students able to successfully pursue engineering and applied sciences careers to further innovation and industry in Oregon's economy. Since the summit, OPAS participants have continued working to increase the use of collaboration and other best practices which will enable the best use of resources and expertise to achieve the OPAS Vision for the year 2020.

More Info: OPAS committee and workgroups' rosters, meeting notes, and work are posted on the OPAS website at <http://opas.ous.edu/>, along with other information resources including a large variety of resource materials and links to other websites. The *opas_interest* listserv occasionally distributes emails sharing event, job, and volunteer recruitment announcements, research, data, articles and weblinks of interest to stakeholders in engineering and applied science education in Oregon. To subscribe, please email jo_oshiro@ous.edu. Many of these materials are posted to the OPAS Master Resources List at <http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/>.

Jo Oshiro, Project Coordinator

OPAS - Oregon Pre-Engineering and Applied Sciences Initiative

OUS, Industry Affairs - Capital Center #1065, 18640 NW Walker Rd, Beaverton 97006

v 503.725.2910 f 503.725.2921

jo_oshiro@ous.edu - <http://opas.ous.edu/>