



## OPAS Initiative

# Status & Activity Update

Jo Oshiro

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The Oregon University System (OUS) Industry Affairs Office moved its office over the last week.

Street Address	Mailing Address	Phones
2125 SW Fourth Ave., Suite 505 Portland, OR 97201  (Unitus Credit Union Building, SW Fourth and Lincoln by PSU)	Post Office Box 751, IAFF Portland, OR 97207-0751	Bruce Schafer: 503.725.2915 Jo Oshiro: 503.725.2910 Ken Cone: 503.725.2918 Michele Vitali: 503.725.2919 Cathy Swider: 503.725.2920 Fax: 503.725.2921

Industry Affairs is home to the Engineering Technology Industry Council (ETIC), OPAS, the Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach Program (ORTOP) and the Oregon Metals Initiative (OMI) and other work to more closely connect industry and higher education in Oregon. Visitors should avoid the Unitus Credit Union parking spaces; there is a PSU parking lot across SW Fourth at University Place, entrance off SW Lincoln.

### Recent OPAS Meetings

- Steering met July 17<sup>th</sup>
- Prepare met July 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Motivate met July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jo will be polling for the inaugural meeting of the OST Committee: 8/26 or 9/2/2009.

### Events

- SuperQuest: Jo was at Western Oregon University, Monmouth for the morning of Monday, August 3 to attend part of Superquest, particularly to touch bases with the equity activity there --  
<http://www.techstart.org/superquest>
- Trip Report from the National Center for Women in Information Technology/ NSF Broader Participation in Computing (BPC) Outreach to K-12 conference in DC, June 11-12, 2009 --  
[http://opas.ous.edu///Workgroups2007/Trip\\_Report\\_NCWIT-BPC\\_Jun09.pdf](http://opas.ous.edu///Workgroups2007/Trip_Report_NCWIT-BPC_Jun09.pdf)

### OPAS Committee Configuration

Pursuant to discussions amongst the Steering Committee and Workgroup chairs, OPAS is morphing the committee structure to better reflect our functions for the 2009-2011 biennium:

- Review of proposals submitted in response to Bright Future RFPs;
- Monitoring the resulting projects analogous to a Board of Directors;
- Planning for continuing the Bright Future Strategy into the next biennium.

The new committee structure is:

- Steering Committee
  - At the next meeting, we will work on brainstorming ways we might address pursuit of additional funding sources. Are there ways that we might effectively help stakeholder organizations pursue other funds?
  - Planning for the 2011-2013 biennium
  - Monitoring pathways activity, for possible future activity/collaboration
  - Monitoring the Engineering/CS Frosh Survey, as the information will be relevant to all stakeholders
- In-Class Committee, encompassing:
  - PLTW, and liaison with the PLTW Statewide Strategy Group and Claude Kansaku , newly appointed State Affiliate Director for PLTW in Oregon.
  - In-class CS: we are still working on how we will interface or merge with the ETIC Computer Science Task Force, which has not met recently.
  - Recommendations to the Steering Committee for the 2011-2013 biennium
- Out-of-School Time (OST) Committee, encompassing:
  - OST focusing on grades 4-9 and inclusivity
  - eCHAMP, promoting Engineering Champions in school districts/high schools with a incentive and support model analogous to high school athletics
  - Internships
  - Recommendations to the Steering Committee for the 2011-2013 biennium
- Marketing will be staffed by the OUS Communications Department as well as Industry Affairs;
 

If you would like to change the focus of your OPAS participation, recruit new members, now is the time! We would like a variety of perspectives and expertise on all the committees. I am in the process of making new webpages and listservs to better support our work going forward.

### Status Updates

- ETIC Budget: at the ETIC meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup>, a pro-rata 15% reduction of the budget was approved. OPAS allocations are here: <http://opas.ous.edu///Committees/OPASS/OPAS-Budget-EBL-LessC.pdf>
- Bright Future Strategy: summary document --
  - [http://opas.ous.edu///Committees/OPASS/Bright\\_Future\\_Strategy\\_V3c.pdf](http://opas.ous.edu///Committees/OPASS/Bright_Future_Strategy_V3c.pdf)
  - RFP: our draft Scope of work is with the OUS Director of Contracts for review. The first RFP addresses the In-Class CS and High School Internship segments. We expect to eventually award one grant in each segment in response to this RFP. A more streamlined format will need to be developed to support eCHAMP and PLTW, for which we expect to make multiple awards to multiple schools. An internal RFP to campuses is being developed to address the OST grades 4-9/diversity segment.

- Grant Reporting: In a lively discussion, the Motivate Workgroup validated the interactive “Board of Directors” model for quarterly reporting. Mary Beth Horton of the BEC and Ryan Collay of SMILE both said that reporting requirements are a serious consideration when choosing which grants to pursue. The monitoring body may have a greater interest in documenting and preserving best practices and metadata than the executing body; OPAS should develop and institutionalize knowledge of what works and how it works. Further work is needed to develop a process that has the desired interactivity but maintains appropriate accountability of public funds.
- Engineering/CS Frosh Survey: as of July 29, there were 470 completed surveys:
  - 84% white
  - 83% male
  - 62% have at least one parent with a bachelor’s degree
  - 27% are incoming OIT students
  - 66% are incoming OSU students
  - Front-running major of choice: mechanical engineering
  - 34% had a CS class in high school
  - 39% had an engineering or CAD class in high school (8% were PLTW students)
  - 25% did non-robotics engineering activities out of school time (OST)
  - 13% did robotics OST
  - 15% did 4-H
  - 17% did an OMSI class or camp
  - 16% saw on OSU Engineering Ambassador
  - Some influence on choice of major: pretty much an even mix of in-class, OST, and events
  - Large influence: an even mix of in-class, OST, and intern/on-the-job experiences
  - The kinds of experience influencing choice of major, whether in or out of class:
    - 56% say hands-on activities had a large influence
    - 49% say lectures, demos, reading
    - 47% say personal experience
  - To my cursory reading of the data, the differences in gender are more of degree than kind – however, the sampling pool is a self-selecting group, as they are matriculating into engineering and CS programs.
- Connections: I provided Mary Beth Horton of the BEC with a suite of documents and links about STEM education in Oregon; she has been invited to a meeting with several Washington industry and foundation representatives to discuss the differences between what is going on in Washington and in Oregon.
- And More Connections: Thanks to Linda Browning, Washington/Multnomah County STEM Coach for one of the Workforce groups, I connected with community volunteer Louis Ashford. I provided him with some information about various STEM, and particularly CS activity. He is a longtime software engineer, and I hope we will be seeing more of him either as a volunteer at various events or in a more activist role.