



## OPAS Initiative

# Activity and Status Update

May 15, 2009

### Scheduled Meetings (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.):

- Steering: Wednesday June 3
- Motivate: Tuesday, June 2
- Prepare: Monday, June 1
- Succeed's work will be morphing to a different format: some members will focus on ensuring equity best practices throughout OPAS; some will focus on seeking additional resources.

### Events:

- Oregon Game Project Challenge, Saturday, May 16, Chemeketa Community College; this event is run by the TechStart Education Foundation and the ETIC Computer Science Task Force.
- National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT) outreach conference for NSF Broader Participation in Computing (BPC) Pls, June 11 – 12, 2009 in Washington DC. Don Kirkwood, Natasha Macdonald, and Jo Oshiro will be attending courtesy of NCWIT.
- The Oregon University System Department of Industry Affairs, home of ETIC, OPAS, ORTOP, and OMI (Oregon Metals Initiative) is moving in early August to the Unitus Credit Union Building at SW 4<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln on the edge of PSU campus. Our current space will become a Beaverton School District classroom, and we will be closer to the rest of the OUS Chancellor's Portland office. We will be within a few blocks of MAX, the Streetcar and the Engineering Building Parking Garage.

**Pending:** Revenue Forecast, May 15. A high-level "Co-Chairs" budget will be issued a few days later. The full detailed budget will be developed over the following six or more weeks. The ETIC and OPAS budgets will be finalized over the summer. Meanwhile, we are using the numbers in <http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/OPASS/OPAS-Proposal-To-ETIC-Jan2009.pdf>

### Steering Committee Activities:

- A PSU graduate class includes a grant-writing assignment. One of the students has been connected to TechStart and given some suggested possible funders. This student happens to be Bruce's stepdaughter, Carla Saporta.
- We agreed on the importance of keeping the OPAS "Foundations and Connections" document out of general circulation, so as not to unintentionally annoy possible funding sources. Thanks for your cooperation on this.
- The "Bright Future" proposal segment has been divided into segments and desired types of grantees identified for each segment, preparatory to structuring RFPs to execute the proposal should funding eventuate. "Internal" RFPs (only OUS entities eligible to apply) require less structure than "Open" RFPs – see the table at <http://opas.ous.edu/steering.htm#Process>. A sufficiently small allocation of funds will require prioritization of which segments get implemented.

- **Action Item:** OUS Staff to review previous RFPs and grant awards for to identify ways of improving the RFP process.
- We made a general agreement that the future committee structure should align with the proposal segments for purposes of monitoring and oversight, with the addition of a group focused on recruiting additional resources and/or facilitating our partners' efforts to cultivate additional funding /resources.

#### Other Activities

- Prepare Workgroup's business plan for the In-Class CS segment was updated May 14, 2009 -- [http://opas.ous.edu//Workgroups2007/Prepare/CS4HS-In-Class-CS-SegmentPlan1%200%20\\_2\\_.pdf](http://opas.ous.edu//Workgroups2007/Prepare/CS4HS-In-Class-CS-SegmentPlan1%200%20_2_.pdf)
- eCHAMP: Gathering reports and data to facilitate media coverage; additional people from Intel, Lemelson, and TechStart are working on this PR effort. The website is up at <http://techstart.org/echamp/>; please send feedback to Ken Cone, [ken\\_cone@ous.edu](mailto:ken_cone@ous.edu).
- Engineering Frosh Survey: Several revisions have been done and tested. We have gotten extensive feedback from OUS Institutional Research which is being incorporated into the next revision; deadline is June 15, 2009 for implementation at this year's OUS freshman orientation sessions.
- Computer Science and Discrete Math:
  - The new Discrete Math standard is an alternative to and parallel to the new Advanced Algebra standard.
  - There is a small piece of NSF funding through a CPATH grant in which Gonzaga University is participating for module development. Don Kirkwood and some others are in discussion with Rob Bryant of Gonzaga.
  - Techstart/Oregon CSTA/SuperQuest may focus on creating a CS course that qualifies as a 3<sup>rd</sup> year of mathematics. An alternative would be to create an a math class for students who have completed Algebra II that covers some important computer science theory and programming/computer science assignments
- Project Lead The Way:
  - OIT has 41 teachers registered over 6 classes for the 2009 Summer Training Institute, so far. Twenty of these are from out of state (seven from Idaho) which helps stabilize the cost.
  - About 4 high schools will be evaluated for PLTW certification this spring.
  - Salem-Keizer is using PLTW as part of a Perkins program approval.
- Community Conversation: Diversity in the CS Classroom: Jo and Ron Tenison (OCSTA, ETIC CSTF) attended the April 22 Workshop "What Research Tells Us about Encouraging Girls in Math and Science" put on by NWREL, USDE's Institute for Educational Studies, the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP), and Lewis and Clark. Jo followed up with a meeting with Natasha Macdonald from TechStart. Trip report: [http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/Staff\\_papers/Trip\\_Report\\_NGCP\\_EncouragingGirls\\_2009.pdf](http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/Staff_papers/Trip_Report_NGCP_EncouragingGirls_2009.pdf)
  - NGCP minigrant information was circulated to the 2008 TechStart minigrant recipients, as TechStart is not able to fund this program at the current time, but is interested in preserving the knowledge and reviving the program when funding becomes available.
  - Through contacts made at the workshop, Jo, Natasha, and Don Kirkwood will be attending the NCWIT/BPC conference (see "Events", above).
- TechStart will be the lead on an NGCP minigrant to follow up on last year's "Community Conversation: Diversity in the CS Classroom" workshop; Jo and Ron are working on supporting that effort and coordinating it with TechStart's cs4hs and SuperQuest activity. Workforce Connections: A consortium of US Department of Labor (DOL) workforce service providers called "WIRED" received a \$2M grant to provide services promoting STEM education and jobs in the Northwest Oregon/SW Washington region over the next 3 years --

<http://www.wirednw.org/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx>. The group has done an inventory of available STEM programs in which Jo and the BEC were instrumental and hired 3 STEM coaches to serve displaced workers and disadvantaged youth ages 16-24. DOL has training funds for youth. A select group of stakeholders met with the WIRED group on May 7; there are tentative plans for another meeting. Jo plans to work on better connections to the workforce sector. The group needs to pursue representation from the community colleges, school districts, and School-to-Work programs.