



OPAS Initiative

Status & Activity Update

June 23, 2009

Scheduled Meetings:

- Motivate: The last meeting was held June 2; the next meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2009 at a new time of 9:00 – 10:30
- Prepare: The June 1 meeting was cancelled; the next meeting is currently scheduled for the default date of July 21, 2009. There has been activity on both the CS and the PLTW fronts outside of this meeting.
- Steering: Possible dates are July 7 and July 17, 3:30 – 5:00.

Events:

- PLTW Statewide Planning meeting June 5; Bruce, Tom Thompson, Tim Brower and others attended; the group brainstormed ways to grow PLTW in Oregon and a follow-up meeting has been scheduled for July 22. State Affiliate Director Tim Brower will be leaving at the end of the summer for Colorado; he will be succeeded by Claude Kansaku.
- NSF/NCWIT Broader Participation in Computing Outreach Conference June 11 – 12 in Washington DC – Jo Oshiro, Don Kirkwood, and Natasha Macdonald attended. They concluded that what Oregon is doing is as good or better than what others are doing, and there should not be any reason we cannot pursue NSF funding for many of the programs under OPAS' purview. Jo will pursue this with various experts and stakeholders. As one preliminary, Jo has summarized current CS learning, teaching, and outreach activities in Oregon.

Status Updates:

- ETIC Budget
 - The process continues through additional meetings in Salem between ETIC members and key Legislators. Industry lobbyists representing about 5 different organizations issued a memo advocating a smaller than proposed reduction in ETIC funding. The Ways and Means Co-Chairs will probably come to a decision in the next 2 – 3 weeks; the last proposed reduction figure was 15%.
- OPAS Bright Future Planning
 - Summary of Strategy Document - http://opas.ous.edu//Workgroups2007/Bright_Future_Strategy_V4.pdf -- was

endorsed by the group as both reminding insiders of our strategy, and as a useful tool bringing outsiders up to speed, especially if more detailed material is available on demand.

- The group likes the balance of the segments, so that emphasis on diversity, middle school, and programs that work is maintained.
- Allocation discussion based on this spreadsheet --
<http://opas.ous.edu///Committees/OPASS/OPAS-Budget-EBL-LessB.pdf>
 - ETIC Student Marketing moving away from print media. Some discussion of the possibility focusing any energy on a speakers' bureau as enhancement of Oregon's version of National Engineers Week/Month, as this function may be too labor-intensive to start from scratch.
 - Planning for RFP's – RFP and proposal template are under study and revision by staff, looking at some incorporation of or reference to the Kellogg Logic Model, rubric; is being revised as part of this. The Motivate Workgroup had an extensive and useful discussion on this topic.
 - Which segment handled by what type of process – internal or external RFP; some process that looks more like an application than a proposal is much more appropriate for smaller dollar allotments.
 - Be aware of organizations writing proposals to backfill funding in the current environment and look for ways to deal with that up front and during review; the existence of any given program should not depend on OPAS support.
- eCHAMP Pilot Project
 - Ben is getting good response and data from pilot programs and will compile that and distribute it to the PR group.
- Engineering Frosh Survey
 - Version 4.4 was launched on June 15, 2009; we believe that we have done good work on a useful instrument with reasonable compromises between the data we hope to obtain and the ease of use for survey takers.
- Inclusivity
 - We need to keep this question in mind as we move forward: how do we insure inclusivity across gender, socioeconomic class, cultural heritage, ethnicity and the urban/rural divide?
 - The evidence shows that good educational practice for girls are good for everybody.
 - There is growing concern for one underserved demographic: “guys left behind”, especially in the middle and lower socioeconomic classes. They do less well than girls in all areas of school except high stakes test, and complete high school and college at lower rates.

Collaborations and Connections:

- 4-H: Jo met with Pat Willis at the Washington County office to share resources and explore potential synergies; she also had a short meeting with Octaviano Merecias-Cuevas of the Washington County 4-H Techwizard program.
- Workforce: A consortia of Workforce organizations is the grantee for a "High Growth Job Training Initiative STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) Grant" from the US Department of Labor. The grant runs from 2009 - 2011 and provides, among other things, 3 STEM Coaches for Northwest Oregon (Columbia, Washington, Multnomah, Yamhill, Marion and Polk counties) and Southwestern Washington (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark counties). Collaborating organizations are SWWDC (Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council), WSI (WorkSystems, Inc), MTC (Management & Training Corporation), EEE (Enterprise for Employment and Education) and the US Department of Labor. They have compiled these two documents for use by STEM Coaches:
 - Stem Scan --
http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/NonOPAS_Working_Papers/Scruggs_STEM_Directory_May_2009.pdf
 - STEM Resource Listing --
[http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/NonOPAS_Working_Papers/Scruggs_STEM_Resources_2009_final%202 .pdf](http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/NonOPAS_Working_Papers/Scruggs_STEM_Resources_2009_final%202.pdf)
 - Jo met with Linda Browning, STEM Coach for Washington and Multnomah counties, to share resources and explore synergies.
 - Jo met with Natalie Pacholl of nConnectNW, who is leading the mentoring portion of the Workforce STEM Coaches grant, who pointed out some resources on understanding some cross-cultural tripping points. Natalie also connected with Ben Manny and the Intel Retirees.
- NSF GK-12: Jo is connecting a PSU professor to several high schools, a school district, and an ESD so they could mutually explore cooperating on an NSF grant placing grad students in classrooms; the particular flavor here is wind turbines. We might want to consider a brief on working with schools – especially timing issues, and forging connections with teachers, building administration and district administration.
- Outdoor School: Jo shared the comparison of engineering design to the scientific method with some outdoor school instructors and directors. Due to the number of students in the state who attend some outdoor school, we may want to explore further the possibility of getting “name recognition” from middle schoolers – i.e., “engineer” is not a guy in a funny striped hat driving a train, but someone who works in the built environment and can affect the natural environment for good or unintended harm.
- Approved: The TechStart Education Foundation’s proposal for a National Girls’ Collaborative Project minigrant of \$1000 to share the learnings from the NCWIT/BPC Outreach Conference, the cs4hs segment of SuperQuest, and the TechStart Community Conversation 2008 minigrant program with grantees and additional teachers. Jo and Natasha have scheduled a planning meeting in July.

Possibilities:

- Best Practices White Paper: “Learnings on Program Development and Accountability”
 - For our own edification in evaluating programs and developing projects
 - For collaborating organizations
 - Another useful message to take out into the community to increase our PR mojo with educators
- Hand Up, Hand Off concept development – integrate with Phase Model?
 - Sufficiency
 - Support for communication between informals, and between formals and informals
 - TSS – BEC is looking at ways to improve functionality so that programs can update their own materials
 - NGCP Program Directory – many but not all programs exclusive to girls
 - Sharing of volunteers? Use the BEC NEM model: in post-event evaluations, offer the volunteers the opportunity to sign up for a menu of additional volunteer opportunities across multiple organizations. The list of names is passed on to these organizations, who must promptly acknowledge directly to the volunteers, even if the opportunity is far in the future (a best practice in volunteer relations management.)
 - NOISE – discussions with OSU Free Choice Learning group around finding a more permanent home and staffing for NOISE
- At some point in the future, OPAS needs to re-address the community college sector