



OPAS Pathways Workgroup  
May 2007

**Good News for Students:  
Agreement Smooths Pathways  
toward Careers in Manufacturing  
Engineering and Technology**

The Oregon manufacturing industry's call for skilled employees in manufacturing technology and engineering has prompted educators across the state to do more to help students to navigate their way toward successful careers. Obstacles for students have been the application of credits into engineering programs, the difficulty navigating a maze of prerequisites, and taking the required courses as they "swirl" among institutions -- high schools, community colleges, 4-year universities, and graduate school. This can be frustrating and expensive for the increasing numbers of students attending multiple institutions to get training or degrees, or returning to school for further education or second careers.

There is good news for career-minded students in Oregon: the recent signing of the **Manufacturing Engineering Technology articulation agreement**. This agreement ensures that manufacturing engineering and technology credits and coursework from high school, community college, 4-year and graduate courses will be accepted and applied to associate of science degree or BS requirements at each partner institution. This clearing of pathways supports the Governor's strategy to increase the manufacturing industry capacity in Oregon, by improving the transition for students pursuing careers in all levels of manufacturing engineering and technology fields. The opportunity applies to students of:

- Project Lead the Way and other programs at a number of high schools.
- Community college programs (including Project Lead the Way) across the state, including: Portland Community College, Southwestern Community College, Umpqua Community College, Chemeketa Community College, Linn-Benton Community College, Clackamas Community College, Central Oregon Community College, Mt. Hood Community College, and Rogue Community College.
- Oregon Institute of Technology Baccalaureate and Masters Degree programs in Manufacturing Engineering Technology.

State leaders plan to expand this model across many more disciplines. This student-centered agreement is part of a large effort to provide students with clear education pathways toward high wage and high demand occupations. This includes forecasts on job availability and salaries at each educational level. For manufacturing disciplines, the educational effort has been augmented by events and programs supported by industry, such as the annual NW Youth Career Expo.

The next challenge for educators is to get the word out to students who may be able to take advantage of these pathways. Please help us by providing this information to students and

colleagues, by including this notice in your institution's announcements or newsletters. Materials and relevant resources, including links and a matrix of all the classes included in this agreement are available at

[http://opas.ous.edu//Workgroups2007/Pathways/OACTE\\_Presentation\\_Apr07.html](http://opas.ous.edu//Workgroups2007/Pathways/OACTE_Presentation_Apr07.html). For additional information, please contact Tom Thompson, ODE Specialist in Industrial and Engineering Systems, [tom.thompson@state.or.us](mailto:tom.thompson@state.or.us)

Signed by the Council of Instructional Administrators in May, the Manufacturing Engineering Technology articulation agreement is the result of the committed, coordinated efforts of the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon Department of Community College and Workforce Development, the Oregon University System, and the Oregon Pre-Engineering and Applied Sciences Initiative, and complements related work of the Joint Boards of Education Unified Education Enterprise, and the Joint Boards Articulation Commission.

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*“The ability of every manufacturing company to compete in global markets is directly tied to the quality, skills and creativity of Oregon’s workforce.” David Marks, Marks Metal Technology and Chairman of the Manufacturing 21 Coalition*

*“The biggest secret in the land is that young people are not aware of the many wonderful opportunities manufacturing offers.” Les de Asis, President/CEO Benchmade Knife Company*