

## ***In the OPASsphere – March 5, 2008***

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***A service of the Oregon Pre-Engineering & Applied Sciences Initiative (OPAS) funded by ETIC***

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***PLTW: Oregon's model at ASEE; More schools sign on***

***Classroom Resources: CISCO Packetville – more fun than you think!***

### ***Events – Announcements***

- FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) launches its FIRST Robotics Competition season with a Kickoff event. The 2009 season will include 54 high school teams. All teams will be playing this year's game named "Lunacy" for the first time- picture a game of dodge ball on the moon with zero gravity. Each team receives a common kit of parts made up of motors, batteries, a control system, and a mix of automation components – but no instructions. They then had six weeks to design and build robots to meet this year's engineering challenge. See the results at **Memorial Coliseum, Friday and Saturday, March 6 & 7, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m** -- [www.pnwfirst.org](http://www.pnwfirst.org)
- **OSU's Engineering Expo** at the Kelley Engineering Center will be on Friday, May 15, 12-4. More info as it becomes available.

### ***Events – Wrap-Up***

- The **PSU Design Competition** on February 27 was a great success, hosting 17 schools and 350 middle and high school kids from the Metro area. The **PSU Engineering Discovery Showcase**, which is more of a recruiting event aimed at high school seniors, was January 23 and hosted 400 students from all over Oregon, SW Washington, and Idaho!!
- Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach Program's FIRST Tech Challenge (ORTOP FTC)'s February 22 state championship at Glencoe High School in Hillsboro was very successful with 34 of 35 teams registered showing up; several Eastern Oregon teams competed in Idaho as it is geographically closer. Kudos to Cathy Swider at ORTOP and all the participants and volunteers!

### ***Weblinks***

- The "**In the OPASsphere**" archives are now separately searchable using the google toolbar at the top of the page -- <http://opas.ous.edu///OPASsphere/index.html> -- *Thanks to Ken Cone!*

### ***Equity***

- "**Class and The Classroom**", Richard Rothstein, National School Boards Association. This 2004 article does an excellent job of detailing specific causes and behaviors related to socioeconomic status that underlay the achievement gap, including the need for out-of-school-time activities in narrowing that gap; in particular, the last couple of paragraphs on page 11 -- [http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/Articles/NSBA\\_Rothstein\\_Class\\_Classroom.pdf](http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/Articles/NSBA_Rothstein_Class_Classroom.pdf)
- National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering -- <http://www.nacme.org/home/>
- National Coalition of Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Advocacy Groups in Engineering and Science - <http://www.ncourages.org/>

*The OPAS Vision is 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 contribute to state economic needs, and innovate and prosper in the global economy.*

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- National Alliance for Partners in Equity (NAPE) -- <http://www.napequity.org/>
  - STEM Equity Pipeline Project -- <http://www.stemequitypipeline.org/>
  - Engineering Equity Extension Service -- <http://www.napequity.org/page.php?17>

### ***Research***

- Eastern Oregon University's Computer Science/Multimedia Department wants to create graduates who can better fulfill the needs of potential employers; they have an **Industry Advisory Survey** and would appreciate feedback.
  - Please go to [http://www.eou.edu/artsci/sci\\_math\\_tech.html](http://www.eou.edu/artsci/sci_math_tech.html) and click on "CS/MM Industry Needs Survey"
  - Additional questions or input, please contact Dean Marilyn Levine at EOU, [mlevine \[ AT \] eou.edu](mailto:mlevine@eou.edu)

### ***PLTW***

- "**Linking High School Pre-engineering with University E and ET Programs**", Timothy Brower, OIT, Session ETD 425 at American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) February 2009. Describes Oregon's model of addressing STEM pipeline issues by partnering with middle schools, high schools, community colleges using Project Lead the Way (PLTW). *Thanks to Tim Brower.*
  - [http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/Publications/ASEE\\_Brower\\_Feb2009\\_Linking.pdf](http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/Publications/ASEE_Brower_Feb2009_Linking.pdf)
  - Currently, 29 School Districts (49 middle and high schools) in Oregon have or are planning to implement PLTW in the fall of 2009.
    - [http://opas.ous.edu//PLTW\\_Advocacy/PLTW\\_School\\_Recap\\_2009.pdf](http://opas.ous.edu//PLTW_Advocacy/PLTW_School_Recap_2009.pdf)

### ***Classroom Resources***

- Packetville – Cisco systems games teaching about the internet for kids ages 8 - 11 -- <http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/packetville/pr/games.html> -- as always, your feedback welcomed!

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