

## ***In the OPASsphere – July 9, 2009***

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

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*Submissions must be short and use embedded links rather than attached documents!*

***archives: <http://opas.ous.edu//OPASsphere/index.html>***

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### ***Events – Announcements***

- **Oregon MESA Students are National Champs!** -- <http://www.pdx.edu/cecs/mesa-mcecs> -- congratulations to the team from Ockley Green Middle School. The Benson Polytechnic team also placed, winning 2<sup>nd</sup> place for their Technical Paper. Good work, all!

### ***Weblinks***

- Bayer Corporation: **Making Science Make Sense** -- [http://www.bayerus.com/msms/MSMS\\_Home.aspx](http://www.bayerus.com/msms/MSMS_Home.aspx)
- **Support for adults returning to college: helpline and website** -- <http://www.oregonopportunities.gov/> -- Press release: [http://www.ous.edu/news\\_and\\_information/news/070709.php](http://www.ous.edu/news_and_information/news/070709.php)

### ***Funding***

- **Five State Leadership Teams Receive \$50,000 Grants to Expand Learning Opportunities.** Press Release -- [http://www.ccsso.org/Whats\\_New/Press\\_Releases/13458.cfm](http://www.ccsso.org/Whats_New/Press_Releases/13458.cfm) -- Teams of education leaders in Maine, Minnesota, New York, Oregon and Wisconsin each received \$50,000 competitive grants to improve afterschool and summer learning opportunities for students through the joint *Supporting Student Success: The Promise of Expanded Learning Opportunities* initiative ... **Oregon** will establish a statewide ELO data system and strengthen the ability of ELOs to support student health and wellness. The Willamette Education Service District is the grant recipient ... *Thanks to the NGA newsletter and the Council of Chief State School Officers.*

### ***Equity***

- **Girls 'hampered by failure fears'** -- < [http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/uk\\_news/education/8090019.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/education/8090019.stm) -- Many girls have a profound fear of failure which could be hampering their chances of success in education and work.

### ***Articles***

- **The 10 Hardest Jobs to Fill in America** -- <http://www.forbes.com/2009/06/03/hard-jobs-fill-leadership-careers-employment.html> -- Engineer still tops the list. *Thanks to Bruce Schafer.*

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- **TexPrep's Record of Success**, Teacher Magazine, July 7, 2009 – [http://www.teachermagazine.org/tm/articles/2009/07/06/engineeringprogram\\_ap.html?tkn=QRPF5%252FoOOydd8kuuGhtWEIJTBtK3StOSyOHG](http://www.teachermagazine.org/tm/articles/2009/07/06/engineeringprogram_ap.html?tkn=QRPF5%252FoOOydd8kuuGhtWEIJTBtK3StOSyOHG) -- has moved beyond its Texas roots, and still flourishes at home. This 7-week summer program recruits women and minorities to technical college disciplines.
- **Teachers Get Industry Training**, Teacher Magazine, July 7, 2009 -- [http://www.teachermagazine.org/tm/articles/2009/07/07/teachertraining\\_ap.html?tkn=SXTF0%252BShfzLZo7deOC58%252BUh1wK0ulteu1hKH](http://www.teachermagazine.org/tm/articles/2009/07/07/teachertraining_ap.html?tkn=SXTF0%252BShfzLZo7deOC58%252BUh1wK0ulteu1hKH) – summer industry internships strengthen the links between theory and application, education and business communities.

### ***Field Reports***

- **4-H Tech Wizards YouTube Channel** -- <http://www.youtube.com/user/4htechwizards> – preliminary figures show 16% of the incoming freshman sampled so far at the OSU College of Engineering participated in 4-H. These days, many Oregon 4-H clubs do robotics, multimedia, and/or GIS in a variety of community-service projects in addition to the traditional “guerrilla technology transfer” in livestock management, food processing and textile technologies.

### ***Program Resources***

- **Scaling Framework Tutorial** by Chris Dede, Harvard University Graduate School of Education for Microsoft-- <http://www.microsoft.com/education/demos/scale/index.html>-- a planning tool for the widespread implementation of promising practices.

### ***PLTW***

- Preliminary data show **Oregon has 28 High Schools** (including 2 Charter) and **20 Middle Schools** (including 2 Charter) implementing PLTW. There are currently 61 teachers enrolled at the PLTW Summer Training Institute at OIT Klamath Falls, which means that despite the economy, enrollment is holding steady. Twenty-nine of those teachers are from Oregon, representing 1 community college, 14 high schools (23 teachers) and 4 middle schools (5 teachers). Spare a thought for them as they work through a year's curriculum in two very intense weeks!

### ***Classroom Resources***

- **Interactive simulations** from the University of Colorado -- <http://phet.colorado.edu/simulations/> -- mostly physics, but also an equation grapher, stretching DNA, glaciers, and salts and solubility.
- **Ask Polaris** – Aerospace Engineering content and career guidance for students and parents -- <http://www.askpolaris.org/>
- **SciGirls Web Site and TV Show for and about tween girls** is coming to PBS. SciGirls -- <http://www.scigirls.org/> --. Each SciGirls episode will follow a group of real girls and their inquiry-based project, making a difference. Twin Cities Public Television is looking for projects to feature on the SciGirls Web site, which will be hosted on <http://pbskids.org/>. **If your organization is sponsoring an interesting class, camp, or ongoing program for tween girls, SciGirls would like to feature a Web video about it -- <http://tpt.org/scigirls/projects4web.html>**

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