

## ***In the OPASsphere – October 15, 2008***

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### ***Job Search***

- The Vancouver MESA Director 's Job Description was posted last week on the WSU web: <http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/adm/hrs/adminpro.html>. The Vancouver MESA center is located ~15 minute outside of Portland, Oregon.

### ***Events – Announcements***

- Celebrate the release of Celeste Baine's new book, *Engineers Make a Difference: Motivating Students to Pursue an Engineering Education* at the **book release party** in Springfield, Oregon! The event will be held from **5pm - 7pm on November 15, 2008**. The first 50 people will receive a free autographed copy! *Engineers Make a Difference*, with a foreword by Cary Sneider, focuses on the state of K-12 engineering education and motivating students. An invitation to explore engineering and share the fun with students of all ages, the book is loaded with practical suggestions and over a dozen ways to lure the least-interested student. For more on the book or party: <http://www.engineersmakeadifference.com/party.html>.

### ***Awards***

- **OSU's Karel J. H. Murphy Professional Faculty Leadership and Service Award** honors a professional faculty member who has provided outstanding leadership and service throughout their career both within their department and in programs and organizations across Oregon State University. **Eda Davis-Lowe**, Director of the Science and Math Investigative Learning Experiences (SMILE) program, is the 2008 honoree and received the award as part of Oregon State's University Day celebrations. She has also been very active in the OPAS Initiative, authoring the White Paper "Fostering STEM Diversity" and chairing the Succeed Workgroup.

### ***Weblinks***

- International Journal of Service Learning – see how engineering makes a difference in the world -- <http://www.engr.psu.edu/IJSLE/home.htm> Thanks to Tom Thompson

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### ***Funding***

- **Google RISE (Roots in Science and Engineering) Awards**, designed to fund, promote and support science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and computer science education \$500 - \$15,000. Applications due December 1, 2008  
<http://www.google.com/corporate/diversity/rise/index.html>

### ***Equity***

- Center for Women and Technology: <http://www.umbc.edu/cwit/> and especially their women in science and technology resources at [http://www.umbc.edu/cwit/sci\\_tech\\_resources.html](http://www.umbc.edu/cwit/sci_tech_resources.html)

### ***Research***

- The *Oregon Career and Technical Education Study* report can be found on the Oregon Department of Education, Career and Technical Education web page. It is the last item on the right hand side of the page at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=151>. *Thanks to Tom Thompson.*

### ***Field Reports***

- **From Lisa Conroy at Washington County 4-H:** “We have a mandate to involve 4000 new youth in Science, Engineering, and Technology (4-H SET) projects by 2013. Part of our strategy is to take a page out of ORTOP’s book and develop a “Master Science Coach” curriculum to train volunteers to be coaches for 5-8<sup>th</sup> grade youth to participate in Science projects after-school and Science Fairs (NW Science Expo). I am working with Chris Steiner – TOSA for Hillsboro School District - whose charge is encouraging and supporting science fair participation by HSD teachers and students. Chris is drafting the straw proposal for The Master Science coach curriculum and will deliver the training to the first batch of volunteers with the goal of having them work with one of our Hillsboro Junior High Schools (7-8<sup>th</sup> graders) in winter/spring of 2009. Intel has given permission for us to use their existing Science Fair curriculum – 4-H will add all the youth development, team management etc. components.”

### ***Classroom Resources***

- From the same brains that brought you the LEGO RCX, the Picocricket -- <http://www.womentechstore.com/picocricket.html> – this link is circulating on several listservs from ITEA and the CS community; I was hoping for a nice link to one of those posts which are relatively short, but still too long to go here. Instead, you must make do with this order page, which does have a lot of information and some videos, but it is still an order page so I believe I must say this posting is for your information, this is not an endorsement, and I personally and this office have no financial interest in [www.womentechstore.com](http://www.womentechstore.com). *Thanks to Brad Naas and Jay Bockelman*
  - From the OPAS Master Resources List: [On Thinking Like an Engineer](#) - 12 year olds' advice on problem solving extracted from "[All I Really Need to Know \(About Creative Thinking\) I Learned \(By Studying How Children Learn\) in Kindergarten.](#)" 2007.

Resnick is a key developer of LEGO Mindstorms and Cricket, and the new web-based

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language [Scratch](#) to teach kids (8+) programming concepts while minimizing the frustrations of precise, limited syntax.

- Education Oasis Graphic Organizers  
[http://www.educationoasis.com/curriculum/graphic\\_organizers.htm](http://www.educationoasis.com/curriculum/graphic_organizers.htm) Thanks Ken Cone
- Time Engineers bringing gaming, K12 math and science together: <http://www.software-kids.com/index.html> Thanks to Ken Cone and Jay Bockelman

### ***PLTW***

- Attracting youth to engineering, Daily Journal of Commerce, October 3, 2008 -- -- A year ago, Cal Jackson was content with teaching geometry and advanced algebra to Lincoln High School students. But when he saw an opportunity to teach engineering at the Harriet Tubman Leadership Academy for Young Women in Portland, Jackson couldn't pass it up:  
<http://www.djcoregon.com/articleDetail.htm/2008/10/03/Attracting-youth-to-engineering-Portland-academy-for-young-women-will-teach-new-curricula-as-part-of>  
*Congratulations to Tim Brower at OIT for his leadership and mentorship of teachers and students!*

### ***Fun Stuff***

- Find your passion, follow your heart and don't let a lack of money stop you. Words of wisdom from Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak.  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/2/hi/technology/7641182.stm>

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