

In the OPASsphere – December 20, 2007

Hello, fellow travelers in the OPAS-sphere –

The topics in the mass of text below these bullets are:

- Outreach opportunity from your organization to FLL Teams and Families at the State Championship tournaments
- Perkins plan open for public comment (Perkins is federal funding for CTE, which when last renewed had additional planning and accountability elements).
- NSF/NGA National Workshop on Science Education and Workforce Issues
- Five-level recognition model for youth participation from 4H
- Oregon Women in Higher Education Conference brochure attached

Outreach to FLL Teams

We have an opportunity for outreach coming up: the Intel Oregon 2007 FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Championship tournaments (that's LEGO robotics in the vernacular) on January 19 & 20, 2008 (yes, the 2007 season spills over into 2008). The Oregon Robotics Tournament Outreach Program (ORTOP) planning committee is making some space available in the commons area of the tournament, where parents, siblings, and teams on break hang out. That space could be used for a table of brochures, a triptych display ... or a couple of tables and a fun, hands-on activity that convinces FIRST LEGO League team kids, ages 9-14, that college kids get to do fun and interesting stuff --- and that it's worth putting up with the occasional boring stretch in math to get there. There will also be some high school students participating as volunteers or demonstrating the FIRST Tech Challenge exhibition set-up in the commons.

We are not sure how we want to structure this opportunity, but we do know that a booth and a talking head get short shrift --- but interactive displays and students somewhat older than the teams get wonderful response and interest.

The tournaments run from 9:00 am opening ceremony to the awards ceremony starting about 3:15. Would you be interested in coming to do some sort of hands-on activity? How much space would you need? Can we answer any questions? What would you like to do? If you are not able to staff a table or provide a hands-on activity we would be happy to display any written material you provide. We expect 800 students during the two day event.

Perkins plan open for public comment

Oregon's Five-year plan for Perkins funded Career and Technical Education is available for public comment. This State Plan Draft will constitute Oregon's response to the Perkins IV Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006. The State Plan will be presented for review to the Oregon State Board of Education and to the U.S. Department of Education in April, 2008.

Background information on the Perkins IV Act and the State Plan draft can be found at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?=1594>. Anyone who wishes to send their comments directly may use the following e-mail address: ode.PerkinsIV@state.or.us.

Public comment will be accepted until 5 p.m., Friday, January 11, 2008.

NSF/NGA National Workshop on Science Education and Workforce Issues

The National Science Foundation (NSF), in cooperation with the National Governors Association, has announced it will be holding a national workshop and exhibition in January focused on

science education and workforce issues. Science Education and Workforce Development: Key Challenges for Innovation in the States will be held at The Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., on January 15-16, 2008. The workshop will focus on newly developed tools that can enhance innovation and educational accountability at local, state, and regional levels and partnerships that engage federal and state agencies and K-12 and higher education with business and industry to improve science education and workforce development.

For more information (PDFs):

- Invitation <<http://science.nsta.org/nstaexpress/NSF-NGA-invitation.pdf>>
- Agenda <<http://science.nsta.org/nstaexpress/NSF-NGA-agenda.pdf>>

Five-stage recognition model for youth from 4H, summarized thanks to Roger Rennekamp:

Here is a link to one of the better descriptions of the five-stage recognition model -

<http://florida4h.org/awards/>

In short, the model identifies five ways of recognizing young people. Here is the "Reader's Digest" version...

- **Participation**
This type of recognition program emphasizes the importance of acknowledging young people who have been involved in educational experiences. For some youth, participation in a learning experience is an accomplishment in its own right.
- **Progress Toward Self-Set Goals**
Parents and other adults can help youth set realistic goals. Recognition for progress toward self-set goals, no matter how small, is an integral part of this type of recognition.
- **Achievement of Standards of Excellence**
Standards of excellence are established by experts in a given area. By measuring personal progress against standards of excellence, youth can gain insight into their own efforts and abilities.
- **Peer Competition**
Peer competition is a part of the model for recognition. This type of recognition subjectively identifies, in a concrete time and place, the best team or individual. It is a strong motivator for some youth but is inappropriate for youth under age nine.
- **Cooperation**
Learning and working together promotes high achievement. Cooperation may take advantage of all the skills represented in the group, as well as the process by which the group approaches the learning task/goal. Everyone is rewarded.