



## **OPAS Prepare Workgroup** January 2008

### **Alternate Recognitions for Branded Programs, other than college credit**

*Tom Thompson*

Nationally, college credit seems to be tied to technical courses that really only exist at OIT in Oregon. The 4-year institutional credit issue may not be the route to explore at OUS schools. Some other suggestions might be:

- Support the offering of PLTW in high schools as part of promotional materials developed by the Universities. Many of the OUS schools have information on how a student can prepare for college.
- Encourage schools in areas surrounding the institution to consider PLTW as a way to interest students in engineering careers.
- Provide preferential treatment to PLTW students in terms of engineering scholarships if they have excelled in PLTW classes.
- Offer to speak at PLTW classes to recruit students.
- Sponsor PLTW training as is currently being done by OIT.
- As a model, OSU engineering is beginning to actively recruit students who have participated in FIRST Robotics through scholarships and free weekend engineering workshops relevant to FIRST topics. Students are starting to connect the dots. Although I don't have any solid data, I suspect some of the students and schools are beginning to view FIRST as an important step into an engineering career. Most of the FIRST teams in Oregon are not part of a credit class.