



OPAS Initiative

<http://opas.ous.edu/>

Status & Activity Update

September 17, 2009

Meetings:

- **Steering:** met August 17, 2009. **Next meeting** September 21, 2009 3:30 – 5:00 at the OUS Industry Affairs (OUSIA) office.
- **In-Class:** met August 18, 2009. **Next meeting:** TBA. The base membership of this group includes the OPAS Prepare Workgroup from 2007-2009 and the ETIC Computer Science Task Force.
- **Out of School Time (OST):** met August 26, 2009. **Next meeting** September 23, 2009 3:30 – 5:00 OUSIA offices. The base membership of this group is the OPAS Motivate Workgroup.
- **Marketing: Next Meeting:** TBA. The committee will review a draft of a revised OPAS Marketing Plan.
- **Bright Future Revival Funding:** This effort is currently being spearheaded by Jill Tucker of the Lemelson Foundation, and Jo Oshiro, who met on August 8, 2009 to prepare for an investigative meeting on September 22, 2009 to discuss possibly tweaking the Bright Future proposal as presented to ETIC, with the goal of tapping foundation and possibly federal funding. Other currently identified participants are Saturday Academy, Eda Davis-Lowe of SMILE and Bruce Schafer.
- **New phone protocol for all (OPAS) committees:** call 1.888.363.4734 id: 1730513; participants on hold until the host calls in. These numbers will be in effect for the foreseeable future.

Infrastructure:

- New index webpage for 2009-2011 biennium: <http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/> contains many OPAS white papers, presentations, and key references. Please tell Jo of other useful links for this page.
- New listservs: members may use these lists without moderation; non-members' messages will be held until Jo clears them. The opassteer@lists.ous.edu remains in place. Listserv names are not case-sensitive.
 - In-Class Committee: opas_in-class@lists.ous.edu
 - Out-of-School-Time (OST) Committee: opas_ost@lists.ous.edu
- Roster page: planned but not yet in place
- Committee pages & archive pages
 - OST Committee page: <http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/OST.html>
 - Archive page (agendas added here as meetings take place): http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/OST_archive.html
 - In-Class: not yet in place
- New “public face” page not yet in place. We plan to focus more on current work and resources, with less emphasis on the original OPAS Summit in 2005.

Bright Future Strategy RFPs:

- Two Requests for Proposal have been released as part of implementing the OPAS Bright Future Strategy that we all worked so hard on, summarized here -- http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/Bright_Future_Strategy_V3d.pdf. The

closing date for both RFPs is September 30, 2009. The window for completing reviews of responding proposals and designating awards will be in early October. The RFPs are:

- Eligibility restricted to OUS and OHSU campuses, focus on Out-of-School programs for project-based learning in engineering and applied sciences, especially but not exclusively in lower grades and underrepresented populations -- <http://www.oregonetic.org/09-11/OPASrfp/RFP2009-10ETICGrantProposalOUSinternal.pdf>.
- Eligibility restricted to non-profit entities -- <http://www.ous.edu/bapp/bopps/view/1545> -- covering two segments of the Bright Future Strategy:
 - High School Internships
 - Computer Science Pre-College Curriculum and Professional Development
- Bruce and staff are working on
 - configuring review panels for the RFPs issued over the last month
 - launching two more RFPs to Oregon middle schools and high schools: PLTW and eChamp
 - a streamlined RFP process for schools interested in these programs
 - Marketing / outreach to schools regarding these programs

Tweaking the Committee Mandates

For the 2009-2011 Biennium, committee mandates include:

- Quality implementation of the 2009-2011 investments:
 - Review of relevant proposals submitted in response to RFPs or similar funding mechanisms for funds originating in the OUS budget. It is expected that some committee members may need to recuse themselves from this process.
 - Monitoring progress of and providing advocacy for proposal projects on a quarterly basis, using a Board of Directors model.
- Planning for the 2011-2013 biennium. ETIC has already begun their planning process for the next biennium, and will probably substantially complete planning in the next 6-8 months.
- Throughout this work, it is important to remain intentional about how we will address underrepresented and underserved populations.
- Di Saunders and Endi Hartigan of the OUS Communications Department stand ready to help with marketing and public relations work when asked to do so.

Updates & Activity:

- **Equity in the [CS] Classroom:** the second annual workshop will be November 7, 2009 at the OUSIA office. All but one of the minigrantees will be present. Funding for a new round of minigrants has been secured by TechStart Education Foundation. Jo Oshiro, Natasha Macdonald of TechStart, Ron Tenison of Oregon Computer Science Teachers Association (OCSTA) and Don Kirkwood are staffing this; activity is expected to pick up after TechStart's major fundraising function, UnCork-Ed, on September 26, 2009. OPAS is providing reviewers for this minigrant cycle.
- **Supercomputing Conference** comes to Portland: This is a major gathering of industry and academics, with access to a lot of NSF and other funds. Jo has been intermittently working with the Outreach to K-12 committee attached to this conference. Their space in the conference venue was pulled because of budget issues; Jo is working to either provide the space in the OUSIA office, or ally with the PSU CS department to hold an outreach workshop there on Saturday, November 14, 2009. Jo made her help conditional on the group having coherent and worthwhile offerings. TechStart, BEC, Saturday Academy, OCSTA, and PSU CS have expressed interest in participating but plans have not yet gelled.
- **Engineering Freshman Survey:** current n = 646; a large uptick is expected about September 24, 2009 as students arrive on campus for Engineering Welcome Week functions, especially at PSU which did not ask students to complete the surveys Jo expects to do a major update in October.

- **Literature Display in the OUS IA Lobby:** the bookcase next to the conference room door has literature from PLTW, ETIC brochures, Getreal flyers, and information from several OPAS functions and member organizations.
- **Project Lead The Way Partnership Team:** This group has been convened by Lita Colligan, Associate VP of Strategic Partnerships for OIT and plans on meeting quarterly. There is significant overlap of membership with OPAS. Their current working goals:
 - Increase the infrastructure necessary to teach the PLTW curriculum throughout Oregon
 - Increase access of Oregon students to the PLTW curriculum
 - Increase the capacity to implement, sustain, and extend the integration of the PLTW program into Oregon schools through fundraising and partnerships with engineering universities, community colleges, skill centers and industry partners.
- **Recruiting:** OMSI has had several reorganizations resulting in a new focus on engineering and innovation, and the desire to re-engage with OPAS. Ray Vandiver will be working to identify the best people for this; their focus will probably be OST and the Bright Future Revival Funding. Jo is following up with Beth Unverzagt of OregonASK and Trish Hakola of the Mid-Willamette Education Consortium (MWEC).