



OPAS Initiative

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

All-OPAS Status & Activity Update

October 21, 2009

Meetings:

- **Steering:** met September 21, 2009 with Eda Davis-Lowe, Ben Manny, Ken Cone, Jo Oshiro, Bruce Schafer, Dick Knight, Tom Thompson, Don Domes and Roger Rennekamp attending. **Next meeting:** Monday, October 26, 2009 3:30 – 5:00.
- **In-Class:** met September 30, 2009 with Mike Bailey, Chris Steiner, Bruce Schafer, Cindy Brown, Ken Cone, Jo Oshiro, Ron Tenison, Chris Brooks, Endi Hartigan and Jay Bockelman attending. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, October 28, 3:30 – 5:00.
- **Out-of-School-Time (OST):** met September 23, 2009 with Jo Oshiro, Ben Manny, Ryan Colay, Roger Rennekamp, Ray vandiver, Joyce Cresswell, David Coronado and Don Domes attending. **Next meeting:** Wednesday, October 28, 10:00 – 11:30 (rescheduled from 3:30 – 5:00 on the same day due to a conflict with In-Class).
- **Marketing:** Endi, Di and Bruce have been working on a draft marketing plan. This group encompasses the ETIC Student Marketing group, and has their first meeting under their new name on October 22, 2009 10:30 – noon.
- **Bright Future Funding (BFFund):** met September 22, 2009 with Jill Tucker from the Lemelson Foundation Saturday Academy representatives Beth Katonah, Joyce Cresswell, Ameer Pacheco; Eda Davis-Lowe of SMILE; and Jo Oshiro and Bruce Schafer attending. **Next meeting:** a half-day working session hosted by Lemelson is planned for November 2, 2009. Lyn Dierking from OSU Free-Choice Learning and Bill Becker or Jennifer Wells from PSU Center for Science Education will join us. The task at hand is finding ways to tap into additional funding streams for the Bright Future Strategy by tweaking (but not contorting) proposals and presentations for best fit with funding entities.
- **RFP Review Panels:** The panels have completed their reviews of the proposals received in response to RFP's #2009-08 issued September 1, 2009 and #2009-10 issued September 2, 2009. (See Bright Future Strategy RFPs in previous issue of All OPAS Status & Activity Update at http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/OPAS_All_Update_091709.pdf) The recommendations from the panel were presented at the October 16, 2009 ETIC meeting and approved. Those receiving grants and not receiving grants are being notified. The panels also discussed, in varying detail, recommendations and strategies for ongoing project monitoring.
- **Project Lead the Way Statewide Partnership Team:** meeting Wednesday, October 28, 2009

Infrastructure:

- Jo continues working on creating web support pages for the work of the OPAS initiative in the 2009-2011biennium. Please let her know of tools and references you need, and errors that you need corrected:
 - Home page for OPAS 2009-2011: <http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011>
 - Roster page: <http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/Roster.html>. All committee rosters are included on this page for ease of cross-reference and updates. Jo is working on rationalizing the corresponding listservs as well. We also continue to work on recruiting new energy and perspectives; your suggestions are welcome.
 - In-Class page: <http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/In-Class.html>
 - OST page: <http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/OST.html>
 - Marketing page: <http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/Marketing.html>
 - BFFund page: <http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/BFFund.html>
- Jo is creating an OPAS Interested Observer and Advisor listserv for those who wish to receive All-OPAS Status & Activity updates, but not meeting notices & reminders. If you have people you'd like to nominate for this list, please let Jo know. Unless you suggest otherwise these people will also be subscribed to "In the OPASsphere".

Upcoming Events:

- **Equity in the CS Classroom, Year 2 Workshop:** Saturday November 7, Classroom 503 next to the Industry Affairs (OPAS) office. This work was started as a collaboration between TechStart Education Foundation and the OPAS Succeed and Prepare Workgroups.
- **Supercomputing 09 Teacher Outreach Day:** Saturday November 14, PSU Engineering. Jo is collaborating with PSU Outreach, CS and the Supercomputing 09 Teacher Outreach Committee to present this event in the hopes of raising our visibility with various NSF players. Jo is reserving judgment over how this is going to play out, but the activity to date does reinforce her opinion that we are fully deserving of NSF funding.
- **Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) Conference:** Jo is slated to give a presentation, with Claude Kansaku (OIT/PLTW) and Ben Manny and perhaps two teachers, assisting, at the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) conference in Portland on November 14, 2009. We will be using this opportunity to raise our profile with OSBA and publicize the RFP for eCHAMP and PLTW.

Updates & Activity:

- **Update Budget Allocation Sheet:** some minor errors and inconsistencies were corrected September 30, 2009-- <http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/OPAS-Budget-EBL-LessF.pdf>
- **Next RFP(s):** We expect to issue one or two RFP's in November, covering the PLTW and eCHAMP programs. Scopes of work, application forms, and PR materials are currently under development. The awardees will be Oregon schools. We expect to begin recruiting review panel members in November or early December.

- Jo gave a presentation on ETIC, OPAS, and PLTW at the PLTW Counselor Conference in Salem on October 9 which included some information on the PLTW and eCHAMP RFPs to come. While the audience was down to about 16 people at the end of the afternoon, these people were interested in receiving notification.
- See the OSBA conference under “Upcoming Events”, above.
- **Engineering & CS Frosh Survey:** As of October 15, 2009 at 5:00 pm, 695 completes with no more anticipated for this term.
 - Survey returns highlights are at http://opas.ous.edu/EFSurvey/Highlights_101609.pdf
 - A more detailed plan for the further analysis of this data needs to be made, including in what form and with whom we will share the data.
 - **PLTW:** it would be ideal not only to tell how many matriculating frosh did take a PLTW class, but compare that to how many had the opportunity (i.e., attended a school that offered PLTW at the time they attended). While it is probably possible to derive a close approximation of this number, the task has not reached a high priority.
- **OST Committee and related:**
 - **OSU reorganization:** the Department of Math and Science Education under Larry Flick will be moving from the College of Science to the College of Education. This realignment may make collaborations between the Department and SMILE even better.
 - **Should we host an OST Conference?** If so, it should be no more than 25 people who can brainstorm and begin implementing ways to increase statewide institutional capacity for OST and develop OST’s role as away to create integrative, holistic content within a context and to deliver professional development for the OST community in formal education standards. Such a conference would need very clear deliverables and staff. One alternative, or piece of such a conference could be drafting a white paper on engaging kids in STEM using OST. The general consensus was that NOISE was too ambitious an undertaking for the audience, mostly because of lack of staff; most of the constituents were too small to contribute much if any staff time to the effort, so the grass-roots strategy was not able to take root.
 - **Recruiting:** Ray Vandiver of OMSI has recruited Randall Fastabend, Director of Outreach at OMSI to participate with the OST group.
 - **Value of OST:** During the meeting discussions, these points were made:
 - Much classroom activity is age-segregated or stratified and one may lose the opportunity for near-peer mentoring. OST venues typically are less age or ability stratified so there is a wider mix of skill and experience in the group.
 - OST can provide continuity of involvement
 - OST can amplify the impact the effectiveness of what goes on in the classroom by giving it context and application.
- **In-Class Committee and related:**

- **PLTW Counselor Conference, October 9 2009 (Statewide In-service day):** An ETIC, OPAS, and PLTW presentation was the second-to-last item on the day's agenda; Jo gave the talk to about 17 people and promised them RFP information when it is released. The presentation is here -- http://opas.ous.edu/Work2009-2011/PLTW_Conference_100909.pdf.
 - **PLTW:** the group reviewed the draft Scope of Work and marketing materials for the upcoming PLTW RFP
 - There may be partnership opportunities with informal educators to make PLTW more available.
 - Concern was expressed around not penalizing early adopters, although the PLTW segment RFP is for new programs, not sustaining or expanding current programs.
 - Eligibility: how does Clackamas Community College offer PLTW? The RFP as currently configured is only for high schools and middle schools (public and private).
 - Don Domes told the Steering Committee that only 6 students at Hilhi signed up for "Principles of Engineering" so the class was cancelled. Selection and recruitment strategy should be part of what we look at in the RFP process.
 - **CS:** Ron Tenison will investigate the national CS curriculum from ACM, computational thinking, and Alice; it may be time to fold one or more of these into our planning.
- **Steering Committee**
 - Reviewed status and plans for RFPs in the several Bright Future segments.
 - ETIC is considering several themes for its updated strategy including energy, water resources, health technology, food/forestry/agriculture and cybersecurity. These themes will be used to give plans and programs context and coherence.
 - OPAS does not need to limit future planning to the current elements of the Bright Future Strategy, but should plan to have committee proposals for the Steering Committee in January in the form of slide presentations.
 - How do we use what we learn from the current projects to do better in the next biennium?
 - Continue with the guidelines: motivate and prepare students; inclusive of underrepresented participants in STEM degrees and careers; scalable; measurable.