

January 25, 2007

To: OPAS Initiative Workshop Participants
Pre-College Engineering and Applied Science Education Champions

From: Eileen Boerger & Ben Manny, OPAS Motivate Workgroup Co-Chairs

Subject: **An Invitation to join the new OPAS Motivate Workgroup**

During the November 2006 OPAS Initiative Workshop one of the priorities we identified is to increase students' interest and knowledge of engineering and applied science opportunities, for the purpose of pursuing technology-oriented careers. For the full report from the Workshop, including more discussion of participant recommendations for actions to be taken by the Motivate Workgroup, please see http://opas.ous.edu//WorkshopFall2006/Workshop2006_ReportG.pdf

We have divided "motivation" into phases:

- Awareness: students know something about various STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) careers/opportunities
- Encounter: Student encounters STEM first-hand, e.g. hearing a speaker, attending an event
- Engagement: Student experiences a hands-on STEM task – a robotics team competition, an engineering day, a science-fair project, a Saturday Academy class, a school course
- Commitment: Student's desire to pursue a STEM discipline/career becomes strong enough to overcome early non-optimal experiences in course work or other engagement.

We invite you to join this team and help us get something done to increase the number of students pursuing engineering and applied science careers. We plan to start this group with a half-day kick-off meeting March 1st on the PSU campus. Future meetings are likely to be teleconferences, so we feel it is important that the group meet face-to-face to discuss and set the workgroup agenda for the coming year. Some initial ideas:

- Focus on a few, well-defined items that can be completed in 2007;
- Consider amplifying an existing program to increase its PR/ motivation value (e.g. MESA);
- Consider tapping into Oregon's smaller companies; they may be able to help increase encounters students and teachers have with STEM;
- Establish program metrics.

We want a core team willing and able to attend regularly scheduled meetings (probably an hour-and-a-half every four weeks, but the schedule will be influenced by the team), read meeting notes, and commit a few additional hours a month to workgroup tasks. If you are interested in helping the workgroup, but unable to commit to the core team level of involvement, please consider acting in an advisory role and helping as time permits, including coming to the to the kick-off meeting.

This is a great opportunity to make a difference to STEM education in Oregon. To join us please respond to Jo Oshiro, jo_oshiro@ous.edu, 503.725.2910.



OPAS Vision for the Year 2020

All Oregonians have the opportunity to choose and successfully pursue engineering or applied science as their field of study and career, thereby helping Oregon's industries innovate and prosper in the global economy.