

OPAS Motivate Workgroup Meeting #3
May 9, 2007 – Capital Center and Teleconference Bridge

Attendees: Jo Oshiro (OUS/OPAS), Ben Manny (NOISE, OPAS), Mary Beth Horton (BEC), Don Domes (Hilhi), Eileen Boerger (Agilis), Endi Hartigan (OUS/Communications), Ryan Collay (OSU/SMILE).

Italics represent activity since the meeting.

Summary Status as Posted May 14, 2007

The most recent meeting was held May 9, 2007.

The Volunteers subgroup reported that the trial run of the volunteer questionnaire may be ready to be taken to OMSI for a final polish. As of May 11, there were 8 responses. Ben is still doing fact-finding regarding many aspects of volunteering and connecting volunteer groups, such as the Intel retirees, to additional opportunities. Many of these efforts involve the BEC.

A lively discussion of the Career-Related Learning Experience graduation requirement was sparked by the Business subgroup report, and touched on the need for mentors, the safety risks in students seeking out mentors on their own, the need for non-parent adult interaction as much as for technical expertise, the opportunities presented by this requirement.

Mary Beth reports that several groups are in the process of or have tried to develop a central clearinghouse model for connecting businesses and volunteers to students and classrooms. Virtually all who take on the effort find it significantly more difficult than imagined and do not complete the program development. The current, highly successful flagship program, School-to-Work, run out of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, placed 3,000 students this past academic year. The program is supported by fees paid by the Hillsboro schools.

The Governor's office has issued a contract through the Northwest Regional Educational Service District (NWRESA) with Jim Francesconi; that effort is currently focused on developing a template for a program that can be customized to fit local needs and resources around the state. The organizational components include business (e.g. Chamber of Commerce, Employment Department); education (e.g. a community college, ESD) and a connecting organization (e.g. BEC, Chamber, community college). The NW Workforce Alliance is developing this template in Washington and Clatsop counties, and is beginning to get traction. These efforts are very relationship-dependent, and how they can be leveraged depends on who owns the relationship.

A speed-dating metaphor was proposed as one mechanism for fostering connections; the workgroup liked the model but agreed a different name might be more appropriate. Another proposed metaphor was the merit badge. Pre-packaging with understood models reduces barriers for many volunteers and students.

Kids need an integral role in something they see as laudable. One model of this is sports.

The BEC is entering in to formal partnerships with IEEE and the Society for Information Management (SIM). The BEC is also looking for programmatic reviewers for the National Engineer's Month Program.

The Intel Ambassadors program which formerly ran at Hilhi was proposed as a possible model for further involvement of the Intel Retirees. The program showed that repeated contact between a volunteer and a classroom results in much higher quality interactions if the adult can visit 4 or more times. Ben and Don will follow up.

The NOISE subgroup reports that the NOISE communications committee is currently without a chair; Ryan endorses Marilyn Johnson's suggestion of John Falk and Lynn Dierking of OSU Free Choice Learning. Free Choice Learning does represent a wider sphere than just STEM education, however. Developing an organization with both a statewide reach and regional nodes of activity is extremely difficult, especially under Oregon's geographic and demographic constraints.

We will have a face-to-face meeting in June at the Agilis Offices in South Beaverton; Jo will poll for a date June 5 or 7, 10:00 – 2:00 with a group lunch.

Respectfully submitted, Jo Oshiro, May 11, 2007

Action Items as Emailed May 11, 2007

- Jo – Get Mary Beth contact info for Brad Naas, Alder Creek MS as a possible NEM reviewer.
- Ben/Jo – make contact with OMSI re: evaluator review of the volunteer survey.
- Ben/Don – test an Intel Ambassador lesson
- Don – get Jo the Intel Ambassador programmatic and curricular documents
- Eileen volunteered to be a programmatic reviewer for NEM at BEC.
- Mary Beth – discuss the need for mentors created by the CRLE requirement with the NW Workforce Alliance, SIM, IEEE and other leadership groups.
- Ben – recruit for NOISE at IEEE or Intel Retirees.
- All – review the description of the CRLEs at <http://www.workandlearnnow.com/Stdnt-MainHOME.html>.

Additional Discussion Points and Resources

- John Ossowski is the new Program and Advancement Manager at the Software Association of Oregon Foundation (SAOF). He's met with Don Domes, Jo Oshiro, and Bruce Schafer. He has agreed to take Kathryn Schwartz' place on the Motivate and Succeed Workgroups.
- Hilhi has a new principal who is very interested in CTE. They have already placed CS back in the curriculum; students have forecast the classes, and they are going to use the PTE certification process to get someone out of industry to be a teacher. Ron Dexter, formerly of ODE, has a Master's program at Concordia University for CTE teachers. Don Domes also teaches through WOU.
- The BEC is working on formal strategic relationships with the Society for Information Management (SIM) and IEEE. Jo notes the goals of the SIM relationship significantly

overlap with the ETIC CS Taskforce mission. *ETIC CS Taskforce info has been sent to Mary Beth Horton at the BEC.*

- Volunteers' subgroup:
 - Infrastructure is a necessary piece of successful use of volunteers.
 - (Don) Serious training is needed for teachers in the use of volunteers.
 - There is one lesson plan/curriculum for the class, and a second one for the volunteer in the classroom.
 - As of May 30, there are 8 completed response to the volunteer survey; one interesting note is that younger volunteers like swag (Tshirts, coffee cups, etc.) while older volunteers do not. No one appears to be motivated by public verbal recognition. The sample leans heavily to dedicated volunteers.
 - Mary Beth and Ben have had several conversations around volunteering and have several things in the factfinding or early stages. Ben is working on tapping Intel retirees and perhaps IEEE.
 - CRLE – Career Related Learning Experiences are nice opportunities for volunteers – we are looking for “low-hanging fruit” around this. Don notes the HS senior project is now a requirement – this unfunded mandate seems to have stuck and it is changing the face of schools.
 - Ben – does the CRLE serve the academic top tier as well as those with more vocational aspirations?
 - Don – High school kids are starved for adult interaction; technical expertise is not a requirement. Previous experience with the Intel Ambassadors program shows that repeated interaction yields better results – it's the 4th or 5th visit when the kids really warm up.
 - The Boy Scout Merit Badge as a model for connecting students and mentors – this is good because “helping students get a CS merit badge” is much more evocative than “help students with CS projects for 10 hours a week”. A good model makes everyone – district, volunteers, teachers, students, companies – more willing to commit. The Boy Scout organization also does an excellent job training adult mentors. *Jo will try to follow up on mentor training.*
- Connecting to Businesses
 - The speed-dating metaphor applied to a career fair – trying to lower the intimidation factor of talking to adults, cold. Needs a better name.
 - The Oregon Education Champion Challenge - <http://www.e3oregon.org/ecc/> was started by E3, the Chalkboard Project, and the Oregon Business Council a couple of years ago with a target of 500 companies by January 2007. SMART has also joined this effort. Per their website, it does not look like that goal was met, but they are still working on the connectivity piece. Mary Beth is part of this ongoing effort.
 - National Engineer's Month feedback – do not underestimate the power of toys and giveaways – kids are very tactile/kinesthetic at this age (middle through high school).
- Connecting to NOISE (Network of Informal STEM Educators)
 - Ben will see if there is someone from IEEE or the Intel Retirees would be willing to step up to chair the NOISE communications committee.