



Oregon Pre-Engineering & Applied Sciences Initiative

OPAS Recap August 2009

The Oregon Pre-Engineering and Applied Sciences Initiative is an active partnership of industry, community, and education leaders committed to achieving the following vision for 2020: **that 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.** . The OPAS Bright Future Strategy will be instrumental in achieving that vision; a summary is available at http://opas.ous.edu//Committees/OPASS/Bright_Future_Strategy_V3c.pdf.

Background: OPAS grew out of the Oregon's Engineering and Technology Industry Council (ETIC) that advises the Oregon University System (OUS) Chancellor and the Board of Higher Education on strategic investment in engineering and technology education to help fuel the Oregon economy. As part of ETIC's vision of leading and integrating engineering and technology-driven constituencies in Oregon, Bruce Schafer, Executive Director of ETIC, gathered more than 90 representatives from three educational sectors, government, industry and non-profit organizations for a two-day Oregon Pre-Engineering and Applied Sciences (OPAS) Strategic Planning Summit in September of 2005. Funded by ETIC, The Lemelson Foundation, and Intel Corporation, the purpose of the Summit was to craft a set of initial strategies to increase the number and academic preparedness of Oregon students able to successfully pursue engineering and applied sciences careers to further innovation and industry in Oregon's economy. Since the summit, OPAS participants from K-12, community colleges, higher education, industry, non-profits, and the community have continued working to increase the use of collaboration and other best practices enabling the best use of resources and expertise to achieve the OPAS Vision for the year 2020.

More Info: OPAS rosters, meeting notes, and work are posted on the OPAS website at <http://opas.ous.edu/Workgroups2007/> along with other information resources including a large variety of resource materials and links to other websites. The *opas_interest* listserv occasionally distributes emails sharing event, job, and volunteer recruitment announcements, research, data, articles and weblinks of interest to stakeholders in engineering and applied science education in Oregon. To subscribe, please email jo_oshiro@ous.edu. Many of these materials are posted to the OPAS Master Resources List at <http://opas.ous.edu/Committees/Resources/>.

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