

Collective Connections

A Regional Partnerships Newsletter -- January 2017

FIRST ANNUAL WINTER CELEBRATION HELD AT UO FORD ALUMNI CENTER

The first annual regional partnerships winter celebration, called “Elevating Assets,” was held on December 14th at the University of Oregon.

Representatives from the three partnership hubs (Connected Lane County, the Early Learning Alliance, and Lane STEM), school officials, community members and business partners celebrated the accomplishments of the initiatives and their collective impact in Lane County.



Matt Sayre, Technology Association of Oregon

The tech sector in Lane County is expected to grow by 28% over the next 10 years, and there are more than 200 openings at tech companies here today. Talent fuels our industry and there is a critical shortage.

We are making strides to address this. TAO is offering visits from tech professionals to local schools, job shadows for students with local tech companies, and internships for students generating college credit. With the support of 25 TAO member companies, we will be offering teachers opportunities to build capacity for Computer Science-based CTE programs. Together with Connected Lane County, we are embarking on the most ambitious school-to-work program ever imagined in Oregon.

John Stapleton, Early Learning Alliance Governance Consortium

Our group is focused on providing three primary goals: getting our kids ready for kindergarten, helping families stay stable and attached, and making sure all service providers are coordinated and working to the same goal.

Our staff and volunteers have achieved many amazing successes. The Kids in Transition to School (KITS) program has been particularly influential. This program helps kids learn the crucial socialization, literacy, and coping skills they'll need to make a successful start in school. This program was awarded a multi-million dollar grant from the federal Social Innovation Fund, which will allow us to expand this program across Lane County.

Laurette Garner, Lane Arts Council

The Arts Asset Map was created to help organizations, artists, schools and our communities collectively respond to and plan for art in schools. As most of us know, arts are no longer institutionalized in schools and arts services now mainly come from external, non-school sources. We hope the Arts Asset Map will be able to fill in the gaps in schools and bring more coordinated efforts to arts education in schools.

Lane Arts Council will be working with the STEM Hub to create a STEAM map that will address the deficiencies in Science, Tech, Engineering, Art and Math in the same format as our original Arts Asset Map. We hope that by doing this we can create equity in schools across the county.



PARTNERSHIPS NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LANE STEM HUB RECEIVES GRANT

Money to be put towards teacher internships



The Oregon Department of Education has awarded Lane STEM a large programming grant. With these funds, Lane STEM will coordinate the launch of an online Lane STEAM resource directory in partnership with Lane Arts Council; the facilitation of all sixteen school districts receiving NGSS (Next Generation Science Standards) training from the Oregon Science Teachers Association; the promotion and elevation of STEM events, and the purchase of STEM equipment for under resourced areas; and summer internships for 10 teachers interested in expanding their capacity in computer science, advanced manufacturing, and health occupations.

For more information on Lane STEM, contact Heidi Larwick, Director [hlarwick@lesd.k12.or.us].



EARLY LEARNING ALLIANCE LOOKS TO GROW SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Local Americorps VISTA helps expand Summer Reading Spots

The **Summer Reading Spots** is a volunteer project organized by United Way of Lane County to provide literacy-building reading experiences for young children and to encourage parents to actively participate in reading with their kids.

In 2016, three sites served as Summer Reading Sports: the Willamalane Park Swim Center in Springfield, Petersen Park in Eugene, and Bohemia Elementary School in Cottage Grove. The program hopes to expand its reach to children in rural parts of Lane County for 2017. Each child who attends a Summer Reading Spot receives a book to take home. Last year, over 1,700 books were put into the hands of children.

To learn more about the Early Learning Alliance, visit www.earlylearningalliance.org. To donate books, please contact Pat Strickler, Americorps VISTA [pstrickler@unitedwaylane.org] or call (541) 741-6000, x133.

EARLY INDICATOR SYSTEMS PILOT

Connected Lane County to begin pilot program in 2017

Early Indicator Systems are a collaborative effort to use data effectively to keep students on a path to successful graduation. Steps towards this ultimate aim include the ability to identify struggling students earlier in their school career, direct students to appropriate interventions and to regularly examine and address on-track patterns among groups of students.

In early 2017, Connected Lane County will begin a pilot to develop a building- or district-specific Early Indicator System. The program will be developed in collaboration with Education Northwest and will leverage their work and research. The project will be based around their already existing training modules and will be led by staff from both agencies.



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For information on Connected Lane County, contact Heidi Larwick, [hlarwick@lesd.k12.or.us].