

Collective Connections

A Regional Partnerships Newsletter—April 2017

ELEVATE LANE COUNTY, SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM, LAUNCHES WITH HELP OF LOCAL TECH INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Called the 'most ambitious school-to-work initiative ever imagined in our community' by Technology Association of Oregon's Matt Sayre, Elevate Lane County began the first of four phases this spring.

For the next year, Elevate Lane County will create learning opportunities for students in the tech field through job shadows, internships, and tours of local tech companies located in our own community. The program also aims to build educator capacity through paid summer externships for teachers and counselors, as well as a robust local web-based portal for matching student profiles to industry. Finally, Elevate Lane County hopes to facilitate a regional advisory board to inform Computer Science curriculum of all sixteen school districts in Lane County.



EXPERIENCE OREGON TECH: GIVING STUDENTS AND EDUCATORS A LOOK AT EUGENE'S SILICON SHIRE

On February 1, 2017, 50 students from the University of Oregon and five educators who will be participating in Elevate Lane County's summer externships embarked on a tour of three local tech companies: CBT Nuggets, Partnered Solutions IT, and IDX Broker.

At each of the three companies, students had the opportunity to tour the facility, talk to current employees, and hear from the CEO of each company about what skills employers are looking for. One message, in particular, was emphasized: students don't need to move to Seattle or Portland post-graduation; some of the best and fastest-growing start-ups are located right here in Eugene. Dubbed the "Silicon Shire," Eugene is home to more than 400 tech companies—and 25 have volunteered to give students and educators the opportunity to experience Oregon tech.



The next Experience Oregon Tech will take place on May 18th, 2017 and will give the opportunity for 100 high school students from across Lane County to tour three local tech companies.

Elevate Lane County is accepting additional educators to the summer externship waitlist, with the hope that more funding may become available before June. Other next steps include developing the online platform, creating a career pathway for students to earn digital badges showcasing academic, technical, and 21st century career skills, and enlisting local businesses that will guarantee job interviews to a candidate who completes their endorsed pathway.

PARTNERSHIPS NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEMfest at the SCIENCE FACTORY
FREE ADMISSION DAY on MAY 6th



Lane STEM is partnering with the Science Factory to host a free admission community event in celebration of Oregon STEM week in May. STEMfest will be held on Saturday, May 6th from 10am to 2pm at the Science Factory, 2300 Leo Harris Parkway. Lane County children pre-kindergarten through eighth grade and their families are invited to join in a day of outdoor hands-on activities, demonstrations, and displays from local STEM businesses. The Science Factory will be unveiling their "Explore Earth and Space Science" toolkit, which contains interactive activities on the solar system, as well as educational materials for the 2017 total solar eclipse that will be visible from our own backyard. Planetarium talks, a 3-D printer from Fidgets2Widgets, and many more exciting STEM resources will be available for children and families at no cost, in addition to local food carts and a water bottle refill station from the City of Eugene. Come join us!

For more information on STEMfest, contact Erin Maloney, Coordinator [emaloney@lesd.k12.or.us].



LANEKIDS HOSTS PARENTING EDUCATION TRAINING Free and reduced registration available

LaneKids, the parenting education face of the Early Learning Alliance, is happy to announce two upcoming parenting education curriculum trainings in Lane County. Thanks to a grant from Lane County and a partnership with Trillium CCO, LaneKids will cover the cost of registration for a portion of the attendees. Our goal is to increase both community and agency capacity for parenting education in Lane County. LaneKids will be hosting a three day curriculum training May 17th–19th in Nurturing Parenting, an evidence-based, family focused parenting education curriculum that has been nationally recognized for its effectiveness in preventing and treating child abuse and neglect. LaneKids will cover the cost of 11 out of the 30 available registration slots.

Additionally, Parenting Now! will host a Make Parenting A Pleasure Training on June 1st–2nd. The training is for parenting educators who use or plan to use the curriculum and want to increase their proficiency and understanding. LaneKids will cover the registration cost of 10 of the available slots.

For more information or to register for a training, please contact Emily Reiter [ereiter@unitedwaylane.org] or 541-741-6000 x161.

REACH HIGHER LANE COUNTY Professional development for high school counselors



Reach Higher Lane County is a two-day professional development day for high school counselors, career center staff, and student support staff taking place at Lane ESD on June 26th from 8:30am-3pm and June 27th from 9am-1pm. Participants receive meals and a stipend. Topics include CTE/STEM Alignment, Elevate Lane County, an Industry Skills Panel, Working with future first generation college students, a statewide counseling framework, and educational profiles.

Any interested counselors or staff can RSVP by sending an email to info@connectedlanecounty.org.