



# OEC

## NEWS

Winter 2003



### Oregon Employer Council Newsletter

## President's Message

*A message from Gwyn Harvey & David Brydson*

This message is my last formal opportunity to address members, partners, and friends of the Oregon Employer Council. As outgoing state president of the OEC, it has been my privilege to serve the membership across our great state over the past six years. It is with great anticipation that I look forward to the organization's opportunity to move forward to the next level. As immediate past state president, I remain passionate about the OEC and assuring our performance against the organization's goals and objectives meets the expectations of our membership. I remain involved and vocal on issues important to business and workers.

Your newly elected OEC state officers are charged with listening to your voice, conveying your message, keeping you informed, and inviting you to actively participate in educating and influencing those involved with developing and setting workforce policies and programs, particularly in the area of employment security, that meet the needs of business.

2003 is a year of new beginnings elsewhere. We have a new governor and a new leadership team in Salem. As taxpaying employers we must continue to hold our elected officials, state and federal, accountable for investing our tax dollars appropriately and assuring the UI (unemployment insurance) trust fund and SEDAF (supplemental employment department administrative fund) remain adequately funded. I encourage you to closely follow the Governor's economic recovery plan and to be vocal about potential impacts to business. Business must also follow the efforts of Congress when it re-convenes in January. The OEC has historically not supported diverting employer tax dollars away from programs they are intended for to other programs or to offset the budget shortfall in our state and/or at the federal level.

Our partnership with the Employment Department in Oregon has opened many doors for employers to get directly involved in workforce development. Debbie Lincoln, her management team, and front line staff in central office and...



*Thank you, All.*

As your new president, I appreciate your vote of confidence in me. I shall endeavor to prove your confidence is well placed.

As my first official act, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Gwyn Harvey for her many years of service to the OEC.

Her numerous deeds and tireless efforts have contributed to all the organization is today.



Now to the next official act - continuing the momentum. These are challenging times for both our state and our council. The economy is still struggling to recover, the unemployment rate is still too high, and the easy solutions aren't as effective as they once were. The business environment is continuing to change at an accelerated rate. Some of these changes we can't do anything about but others, while not controllable, can be directed. We must continue our progress on those we can direct or influence.

To this end, I would like to share my vision of what we, as the OEC can do to continue this progress. To begin with, I would like to share with you something I read recently that I feel defines progress.

"... Progress can't come without compromise. Compromise can't come without conversation. Consultations, though, are futile if they don't move beyond sterile chats to produce trust. Trust grows out of even-handed, conscience-driven, pragmatically sensitive give and take, which starts and ends with conversation that exercises ears first and vocal cords second.

Monologues aren't conversations..."

*Robert Landauer, The Oregonian*

So let us open up the conversations. Let's begin by discussing how we are going to effectively spread our message.

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**-Continued message from David Brydson**

Given the current state of funding, we need to spread our message in a more cost-efficient way. The method that comes instantly to mind is the use of technology and the Internet. Are you interested in continuing this conversation?

Our next discussions need to be about how we can help our community of partners become more involved with us, and how we can participate more with them. Part of our conversation needs to be the development of an OEC chapter in every Employment Department field office in the state, the reactivation of local councils that have become inactive or dormant, and the strengthening of all councils throughout the state. Who would like to participate in that conversation?

We need to continue the conversation with how our state organization can assist the local councils in getting a larger level of involvement by the local community. We can do this by providing Best Practices, Great Ideas and Successful Programs from all councils into a comprehensive knowledge base that is available to all. We have a 30-year history of great ideas and practices that reside in dusty files and the brains of our many volunteers from the past and present. Isn't it time we made this knowledge available to all?

Who among us will initiate the conversation about our membership database? The one that tracks all those great people who assist, support, and volunteer for the things we need to get done. Currently we have silos of information, independently maintained and inaccessible. My vision includes a database that can be used to find those that are most interested in topics and activities important to the OEC. We can use that system to put these people in front of our legislators, civic groups, and other community partners to get our message out. Passionate people can be used effectively when placed in activities related to their interests.

As you can see, there is much to discuss and many conversations to have on our way to achieving progress in our communities. I am not interested in monologues. My role as a leader is to open the meeting, start the conversation, and get out of your way. If we are willing to participate in change, progress can be achieved. Who will join me, around our table, in these conversations?

I look forward to working with all of you on these ideas and many more. I am happy to start these conversations and participate in any discussion, if, and only if, it contributes to our success. So as we move forward with change to provide solutions to these challenges...

David Brydson  
OEC President



...Let's Talk!

## **2003 Economic Challenges & Opportunities**

**A message from Debbie Lincoln, Director Oregon Employment Department**

**-Continued message from Gwyn Harvey**

local field offices around our state greatly appreciate the opportunity to work with and hear from business. Our common goals allow us to leverage our influence to meet the needs of business and workers. Debbie has brought a new perspective to the Employment Department that encourages employer involvement and is responsive to employer expectations. My appreciation of Debbie and her staff for their support of OEC is immeasurable. I would be remiss if I didn't also make special mention of Marney Roddick, OEC state coordinator, who keeps the interests of OEC front and center at all times.

In closing, I want to extend a sincere thank you to the members of the OEC for your active participation and volunteerism. We can all make a difference - we just have to make the choice to do so.

Gwyn Harvey



Hello, and Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you are looking forward to the new year, with all its promise and challenge.

First, I want to thank - profusely thank - Gwyn Harvey for her six years of energy and attention to the Oregon Employer Council. Her vision and dedication have kept the Council among the strongest in the country. Her participation in the Employment Department Advisory Council and the Oregon Workforce Investment Board has informed her OEC leadership with a broad and unique perspective. Thank you, Gwyn, for your past leadership and for continuing to be part of the Council!

Second, I want to welcome Dave Brydson and thank him for taking on the challenge of leading this organization. Dave's passion for the OEC is consuming; his ideas and hopes for the organization should carry it to even greater influence. Dave, we're ready to work with you to make this a terrific year for the Council.

So what does that year look like? To me, it looks jam-packed with opportunities and challenges. The state's economic situation touches us all; the choices in front of us are none of them easy.

For the Employment Department, we're seeing a renewed interest in - even a passion for - developing the state's economy and the workforce coming from the office of the Governor. Governor Kulongoski is very much interested in how the workforce system can support statewide, focused,



proactive economic development, how we can use the resources of state agencies, federal programs, and local partners to get the state back on track to prosperity. More than any governor I've worked for (and he'll be the fifth!) he has brought in the energy and expertise of business leaders to tackle the challenges before us. OEC members can have a voice and an impact, through the Council, in what happens in Salem, and what happens in your local community. Instead of looking toward the legislative session with dread at the magnitude of the issues facing policy-makers, I'm beginning to view the coming months with a (cautious) optimism that everyone's ready to go to work and solve our problems in the Oregon way.



extended UI. Another proposal is a year-long hiatus in the collection of federal unemployment taxes. On top of the fiscal proposals, the Bush Administration plans to reintroduce a bill to devolve the unemployment tax system and administration to the states. Reauthorization of the federal Workforce Investment Act and other training and education legislation will have a huge impact on the resources available to Oregon to work with business on workforce training and economic development.

Your advice and experience will be needed throughout the year. I hope to visit with each local OEC during the legislative session to hear your thoughts so I can better represent you here in Salem. We will keep you up-to-date about what's going on here in the capitol and when you may want to become personally involved in the legislative process. Feel free to call me, e-mail me, send me a letter - give me your advice on what we can do to SERVE BUSINESS and PROMOTE EMPLOYMENT.

The other opportunity (and challenge) comes from the federal government. As I write this, Congress is preparing to return to the question of extending unemployment benefits. Sen. Max Baucus (D-MT) is proposing an economic stimulus package that includes everything from revenue sharing to

Debbie Lincoln  
OED Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie".



## The 2002 Distinguished Service Award

The 2002 Distinguished Service Award was presented to OEC's local council coordinators. The coordinators received their awards during the 2002 annual state conference at Canyonville in October.

In December, incoming state president Dave Brydson met with about half of the local coordinators.

From left: Dave Brydson; Brenda Meyer, Douglas County; Ralph Richmond, South Coast; Tiffany Hibbard, Mid-Willamette; Denise Pollock, Central Oregon; Marilyn Gordon, Downtown Portland; Will Watson, Downtown Portland; Karey White, North Portland; Diane Ivers, Jackson County;

Annie Kirsch, Beaverton Area; Yvonne Hanna, central office; Beth Lopez, Hood River; Marney Roddick, OEC state coordinator; Lennea Cordray, Gresham/East County; Sandy Mies-Grantham, Lincoln County.

The first distinguished service award was presented to Sam Brooks in 2001 at the state conference held in Bend. The award is presented to an individual or organization that significantly contributes to the mission and ideals of the Oregon Employer Council. The next award will be announced at the state conference scheduled for October 15 and 16 at the Agate Beach Inn, Newport.



# 2003

## Upcoming Dates...

February 26.....	<b>Annual Issues Forum and 1st Quarter Board Meeting</b> Red Lion, Salem (possible operations manual committee meeting Feb. 25)
March 18 & 19.....	<b>OEC Coordinator Training</b> Sweetbrier Inn, Tualatin
March 30 & 31, & April 1.....	<b>UWC Conference in Washington D.C.</b>
May 4-6.....	<b>Annual Board Retreat and 2nd Quarter Board Meeting</b> Resort at the Mountain, Welches
June 3.....	<b>OEC Speaker Showcase</b> Red Lion, Salem
August 15.....	<b>Year-end financial statements due</b>
August 15.....	<b>OEC award nominations due</b>
September 14.....	<b>3rd quarter board meeting</b> Agate Beach Inn, Newport
September 15 & 16.....	<b>Annual State Conference</b> Agate Beach Inn, Newport
November or December.....	<b>4th quarter board meeting</b> Conference call



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Marney Roddick  
OEC Coordinator  
Employment Department  
875 Union Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97311