



Press release

For immediate release

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Contact: Charlie Burr, BOLI, (971) 673-0788
Crystal Greene, ODE, (503) 947-5650

Major investment in career technical education will expand hands-on learning to 140 schools *"A highly skilled workforce is central to Oregon's economic competitiveness," says Avakian*

PORTLAND, OR—In a major expansion of career readiness investment, 140 Oregon middle schools and high schools – serving more than 90,000 students – will receive Career and Technical Education (CTE) Revitalization Grants totaling \$8.87 million, Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian and Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Rob Saxton announced today.

The CTE Revitalization Grant funds will benefit students, schools and local employers around the state in fields such as health care, advanced manufacturing, construction, engineering, agriculture, renewable energy technology and more.

"Oregon's competitiveness is fundamentally linked to the availability of a skilled workforce," said Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian. "This is a huge win for students and our ability to support well-paying jobs around the state. Today's announcement represents the most significant investment in career education and hands-on learning in a generation. More students will have access to 21st century shop classes and applied science, technology, engineering and mathematics instruction as a result."

The applied learning of CTE programs helps develop both academic and technical skills and contributes to a rich and relevant learning experience. Graduation rates for students in CTE programs are near 90 percent, according to the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium.

"As we strive to meet our state's 40-40-20 goals and better prepare our students for college and career, strong programs in Career and Technical Education are essential," said Deputy Superintendent Rob Saxton. "This year's CTE Revitalization Grants will fund hands-on, applied learning opportunities in 140 schools all around our state and will help more of our students graduate with the skills they will need to succeed in higher education and the workforce."

The CTE Revitalization Advisory Committee – comprised of representatives from organized labor, trade organizations, education and Oregon's business community – reviewed 62 applications totaling \$21.6 million in requests. A diverse coalition of advocates will seek to refill the grant fund during the 2014 Oregon legislative session as part of the larger effort to ensure that every middle school and high school has access to high-quality and engaging CTE programs.

The grants build on an earlier investment by the 2011 Legislature to bring back vocational programs to 21 middle schools and high schools with an initial investment of \$2 million (HB 3362). During the 2013 Oregon legislative session, a bipartisan coalition sponsored and passed legislation (SB 498) that quadrupled the initial investment to extend hands-on learning to more Oregon students.

The grant advisory committee prioritized geographic diversity and strong community partnerships with local employers in its selection of grants. In total, the 24 funded programs will leverage more than \$2.6 million in matching funds from community and business partners. The business partnerships also ensure that career readiness education matches the greatest need in high wage, high growth fields.

One-third of all grant-funded projects are located in non-metropolitan Oregon counties. A map of grant-funded programs can be found [here](#).

District/School/ESD	Program Name	Award
Beaverton SD	CTE Excellence through Innovation in the Beaverton SD	\$353,630.00
Bend-LaPine SD	Engineering the Future of Power and Energy	\$268,045.00
Centennial SD	Centennial SD CTE Revitalization Grant	\$403,430.00
Clackamas ESD	Revitalization of Clackamas County Manufacturing Programs: Creating Capacity to Meet Manufacturing Workforce Needs	\$324,281.00
Enterprise SD	Enterprise High School Industrial Arts and Manufacturing and Engineering Program (IAMEP) Revitalization	\$249,986.00
Grant ESD	Eastern Oregon Regional Construction Hub	\$487,850.00
John Day SD	Grant Union Metal Fabrication and Technology Project	\$194,088.00
Gresham-Barlow SD	Students @ Work: Building Capacity, Building Connections	\$452,410.00
Hermiston SD	Columbia Basin Homebuilders Program	\$371,926.00
Hood River SD	Hood River CTE Revitalization	\$437,991.00
Junction City SD	Manufacturing, Engineering, Construction and STEAM in Junction City: College and Career Readiness for All Students	\$495,280.00
Lane ESD	Regional Healthcare Pathways: Innovation in Education	\$455,208.00
McMinnville SD	21st Century Skills Project	\$236,648.00
Oregon City SD	NexGen (Next Generation) Manufacturing	\$315,388.00
Philomath SD	Philomath HS's Manufacturing Technology Enhancement	\$253,467.00
Portland Public Schools	CTE and Career Pathways in Portland Public Schools	\$343,357.00
Redmond SD	Manufacturing the Future of Redmond	\$474,955.00
Reedsport SD	Junior Apprenticeship	\$250,000.00
Salem-Keizer SD	Getting Ready for Oregon's Workforce: Construction/Design and Restaurant Management	\$495,222.00

Salem-Keizer SD	Steps to Oregon and America Revitalization: Public Safety and Restaurant Management	\$475,518.00
Sherwood SD	Digital Design and Fabrication: Collaborative FabLab Training Facility with a Mobile STEM FabLab	\$494,510.00
Sutherlin SD	Industry Partners + 21 st Century Facilities = Student Success	\$309,533.00
Vernonia SD	Vernonia HS Career and Technical Education Program	\$249,905.00
Wallowa School District	Connecting Agriculture to Industry Careers	\$480,328.00

Grant funding to begin programs will be available this month.

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) jointly appoint the Career and Technical Education Revitalization Advisory Committee. Additional information on grant criteria and summaries of the projects selected for this round of funding can be found at:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=4050>.

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