



**Press Release**

For Immediate Release

**June 24, 2013**

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**Avakian touts modern, hands-on learning at InFocus**

*“A well-trained, highly skilled workforce is central to Oregon’s economic growth,” says Avakian*

**TIGARD**—Oregon Labor and Industries Commissioner Brad Avakian today highlighted the critical need for career and technical education investment during a tour of InFocus, developers of the MondoPad used in leading-edge Oregon classrooms.

**“Just as industry and advanced manufacturing have radically changed, so too have 21<sup>st</sup> century shop classes and modern career learning,”** said Labor Commissioner Avakian. **“These are not the shop classes of old. Students in places like Silverton are preparing for careers in sports medicine as they use power drills to learn how to reconstruct blown out knees, tibias and femurs. Students in Joseph are mastering CAD design skills and industrial automation so that their community will have a workforce of skilled computer science professionals ready to support modern manufacturing.”**

During the tour, Commissioner Avakian praised the legislature and the broad coalition of businesses, labor organizations, students and education leaders working to pass SB 498, the effort to refill and expand the Career Technical Education Revitalization Grant Fund. An investment package of \$7.5 million – a nearly four-fold increase over last year’s fund—will head to Ways and Means this Wednesday.

Traditional hands-on learning combined with forward-looking technology can help Oregon middle schools and high schools prepare students for well-paying jobs that too often go unfilled because of a skills gap.

**“InFocus technology is helping students collaborate and develop valuable workforce readiness skills,”** said Raymond Yu, President of InFocus. **“As an Oregon business with deep community roots, we plan to partner with Oregon schools, including offering leading-edge products such as the Mondopad with deeply discounted pricing to support and enhance classroom learning.”**

Since Oregon removed the career and technical education programs that were once a staple, the average age of Oregonians enrolled in apprentice programs has increased from 19 to 27 today.

**“Oregon’s ability to attract well-paying jobs and compete in the global marketplace is fundamentally linked to the availability of a skilled, homegrown workforce,”** said Avakian. **“And Oregon companies like InFocus are an important part of that – getting students excited about learning, collaboration and problem solving.”**

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**About BOLI**

The mission of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is to protect employment rights, advance employment opportunities, and protect access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination.

**About InFocus Corp.**

[InFocus](#) leads with creative solutions for successful visual collaboration in large venues, conference rooms, classrooms and workstations throughout the world. Based in Portland, Ore., InFocus draws on more than 25 years of experience in innovation and display technology to develop cutting-edge digital projection and collaborative devices. InFocus understands the importance of being connected, not tethered, to equipment, auxiliary components and complex devices. In 2011, InFocus created the [Mondopad](#), a giant touch PC/tablet hybrid that changes the way people interact with information and each other. It makes content more immersive, audiences more involved and every interaction more engaging because it brings together all the collaboration tools people need to visually present, capture and share ideas. For more information, visit the company's website at [www.infocus.com](http://www.infocus.com) or Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/InFocusCorp](http://www.facebook.com/InFocusCorp), or follow InFocus on Twitter at [@InFocusCorp](#) and [@InFocusEDU](#).