

Did you know...?

Only 29 percent of Salem-Keizer students met the benchmarks for the four subjects tested, which is higher than the national average but slightly lower than the state, a report from the testing company and data from the district showed.

(Source: ACT report "The Condition of College and Career Readiness 2014")

Note – the following story was submitted by CCWD staff Evelyn Roth, whose niece works for the World Affairs Council in downtown Portland. While it is not community college or workforce-related specifically, we wish to lead with this fine news:

Hi all - So many bizarre and wonderful things happen at my work on a regular basis and I rarely share because, well, it becomes oddly normal (suffice it to say the Ukrainians have been on our bad list all week!). But on occasion, even I take pause to appreciate what it is we're doing here. Over the past few weeks, we had a group of Iraqi youth, coming from all corners of Iraq (Sunnis, Muslims, and oppressed Christian minorities) and they spent a few weeks in Portland looking at youth leadership and community development. For those of you following the news regularly, [ISIS](#) has done a number on these kids home lives (not all, but some) and we've had many a crying kid in our hallway as they watch what's happening in Iraq during their absence (one student's parent's fled to Lebanon while he was here). But the human spirit is resilient and I couldn't stop smiling when my coworker sent me this photo of our kiddos on their way back to DC (before heading home). In case you were wondering, that's Vice President Joe Biden living up to his 'big kid' reputation by taking a selfie with the group.

Oh citizen diplomacy...you get me every time :-)
Happy Wednesday everyone! Jackie



Jobs coming back post-recession, but with much lower pay, study says

The U.S. has regained the 8.7 million jobs lost in the recession, but the average wage has dropped 23 percent, according to a U.S. Conference of Mayors study released today. The report, "U.S. Metro Economies: Income and Wage Gaps Across the U.S.," also found a widening income gap between the rich and poor, with the highest earning 20 percent of households gaining the most. Chicago mirrored the national trend.

Read the complete *Chicago Tribune* article here: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/breaking/chi-jobs-wages-inequality-mayors-20140811-story.html>

Salem-Keizer's ACT scores on par with state and nation

Salem-Keizer students in the Class of 2014 did as well on the ACT college entrance exam as their state and national counterparts, though many of those graduates were not college ready.

Read the complete *Statesman Journal* article with link to the data here:
<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/story/news/education/2014/08/20/salem-keizers-act-scores-par-state-nation/14342549/>

Most Oregon high school grads unprepared for college academics, ACT scores say

Most Oregon high school graduates aren't skilled enough at reading, writing, science and math to pass freshman college classes, [ACT scores for the class of 2014](#) show.

An estimated 36 percent of Oregon's 2014 public school graduates took the ACT and a slightly lower share of them tested college-ready than in the class of 2013, according to results released Wednesday. But that drop could have been due to the fact that more students took the test (up from an estimated 34 percent of the class of 2013) rather than falling performance levels among Oregon high school students overall.

Read the complete Oregonian article here:

http://www.oregonlive.com/education/index.ssf/2014/08/most_oregon_high_school_grads_1.html#incart_m-rpt-1

See the skills students are missing

80% of students who don't pass a GED® test subject only need to answer 1-3 more questions correctly to pass. That means every question matters. Wouldn't it be great to know what skills students need to answer more questions correctly? Well, now you can!

The new [Top Skills 2014 Test-takers are Missing](#) tool shows the exact skills test-takers who don't pass the GED® test are missing. This is one of the most valuable tools to use in your classroom! Use it to help focus your instruction and remind students of the skills they need to master before they test. In general, students who can demonstrate these skills will score higher on their tests.

[Download the Top Skills 2014 Test-takers are Missing tool](#) and use it to help your students today!

CWRC/NCRC E-Newsletter

The CWRC/NCRC E-Newsletter is designed to provide stakeholders with a condensed summary of the most current information, events, and data related to Certified Work Ready Communities (CWRC) the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) efforts across the state.

Read the current edition here:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) and Subcommittee Meetings

<http://education.oregon.gov/Pages/HECC-Meeting-Materials.aspx>

Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB) and Subcommittee Meetings

<http://education.oregon.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Oregon Workforce Investment Board (OWIB) Meeting Dates

http://www.oregon.gov/gov/skilled_workforce/Pages/Vision%20and%20Strategic%20Plan.aspx

HECC-OWIB Joint Task Force Meetings

http://www.oregon.gov/gov/skilled_workforce/Pages/HECC-OWIB-Joint-Task-Force.aspx

The Mission of the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development is to contribute leadership and resources to increase the skills, knowledge and career opportunities of Oregonians.

<http://www.oregon.gov/CCWD/> 503-947-2401
