

Purpose and Scope (for Regional Promise Grant Application)

Central Oregon has earned a reputation as a place where collaboration is valued, decisions follow from data, and student interests are put front and center. This approach is exemplified in the work of the **Central Oregon Consortium** whose partners include all six K-12 school districts (Bend-La Pine, Crook County, Culver, Jefferson County, Redmond, and Sisters), High Desert ESD, Central Oregon Community College, OSU-Cascades, and Better Together, a new nonprofit that focuses on youth success from “cradle to career” and coordinates or facilitates many of the region’s education-related initiatives.

The purpose of the Central Oregon Consortium is to foster a college-going culture. We improve alignment between K-12 and higher education, expand academic preparation of teachers and students (so the latter can earn college credits while still in high school), close opportunity gaps for historically underrepresented students, and generate additional resources to support our schools. Our Regional Promise proposal seeks \$569,314 in funding, brings \$410,830 in match, and includes the following key elements:

- Providing a variety of Accelerated College Credit Opportunities – in addition to College NOW, AP, IB and CTE offerings, we continue to develop Cascades Commitment, a regional initiative that provides a clear path for any high school student in Central Oregon to earn up to 19 core credits that meet foundational requirements for an Associates or Bachelors Degree. Alternative qualifications for high school teacher certification are being implemented in Writing and Math and pursued in History 201.
- Fostering a college-going culture – the region is fully committed to AVID (all Districts will have at least one AVID school in place), and Better Together is launching Future Accounts, an effort to have every student open a college and training savings account by the time they leave 3rd grade.
- Closing opportunity gaps – the region is mobilizing around a “Latino Success Initiative” which will develop and implement Latino support programs at all grade levels (ES, MS, HS and college).
- Supporting regional educational improvement and collaboration – through cross-sector PLCs (including a new school counselor PLC), and multiple regional initiatives along the P-20 continuum.