



Intel and World Possible Come to Tillamook

Representatives from the tech company and nonprofit talked education innovation with staff and youth.



Left to right: World Possible executive director Jeremy Schwartz, Ryan Palmer of Intel, and youth Jace B. and Stephen K. discuss use of Intel's technology at OYA.



Carla Caesar of Intel (right) and youth James T. participate in a roundtable discussion.

By [Sarah Evans](#), OYA Communications
March 7, 2016

A dozen people sat around the room, candidly discussing how they've used Intel's Content Access Point (CAP), sharing challenges they've faced, and brainstorming ideas for how Intel can make the next version better.

It may have sounded like a typical tech brainstorming session, but the February 18 meeting was far from typical. The location was inside Camp Tillamook, and sitting alongside two representatives from Intel were education leaders from OYA and the Willamette Education Service District, an international nonprofit executive director, and five youth from Tillamook Youth Correctional Facility.

And the playing field was equal. Everyone contributed their ideas for how Intel's CAP devices, which already have revolutionized the way OYA students learn, could do even more in their next iteration. The Intel representatives listened carefully and took notes.



World Possible's RACHEL servers, which run on Intel's CAP devices, bring online educational resources to OYA students.

It was the end of a productive day where the two guests from Intel toured Tillamook — their first time in a youth correctional facility. OYA staff and youth had the chance to show how students use the CAP devices for everything from completing daily classroom assignments to searching the Oregon Law Library.

Carla Caesar, a marketing manager at Intel, summed up the day this way: “It’s easy to sit in my cubicle and work on these projects and think, ‘This is a cool thing we’re making.’ It’s a whole other thing to go out and see its impact — to hear how these youth are using it not only for education but also for researching the law and their rights — and learn how it’s improving lives.”

OYA education coordinator Frank Martin and his team first began working with Intel several years ago through a nonprofit called [World Possible](#), whose RACHEL servers bring internet content to developing countries that have little or no internet connectivity. OYA brought RACHEL — a stand-alone wireless content server that runs on [Intel Education CAP](#) devices — into facility schools to allow youth to access valuable online educational content without actually going on the internet.

World Possible executive director Jeremy Schwartz and other volunteers from his organization also helped OYA design digital content specifically for a correctional education environment.

The CAP devices can store up to 500 gigabytes of content, including copies of websites like Wikipedia for Schools, Oregon Law Library, Khan Academy Light, TED talks, and Study.com, to name a few. Last year, OYA also started working with Google to bring their devices, including Chromebooks, into facility schools. Students can use these devices to tap into the CAP servers.

The Intel and Google partnerships are giving OYA youth a technology-based education experience similar to what they might have in public schools.

Putting websites and cutting-edge technology into the hands of people in custody is a radical idea in the world of corrections, where security concerns typically ban these types of activities.

But helping youth hone their technical skills — while also giving them chances to learn for themselves and show they are trustworthy — is critical to their success when they transition out of custody, says Gary Westoby, PbS state coordinator.

“We’re trying to empower the students and the teachers by giving them more resources,” he said.



Nathan S., a youth living at Tillamook YCF, introduces the facility's computer lab to (left to right) Carla Caesar and Ryan Palmer of Intel, and Jeremy Schwartz of World Possible.



Jeremy Schwartz of World Possible discusses the RACHEL servers as Ryan Palmer of Intel takes notes.

“Empowering the students allows them to go back out into the community and make healthy choices.”

Westoby was among those at the Tillamook meeting. Caesar and Ryan Palmer, a senior human factors engineer, represented Intel. Also in the room were OYA’s education coordinators Frank Martin and Tracie Hightower; Dagny Brown, who runs college programs at MacLaren and Hillcrest; Michael Conn, principal of the MacLaren and Hillcrest high schools; Denessa Martin, superintendent of the Tillamook facilities; Jeremy Schwartz of World Possible; and five youth from Tillamook YCF.

The youth often stole the show. They were members of Tillamook’s “Geek Squad,” youth who have learned computer networking and related skills. They did most of the legwork to set up the computer labs at Tillamook, and they’ve configured computers for other facilities as well.

Nathan S. demonstrated how the system looks when students log on to the CAP servers, and showed the Intel reps a website he'd built for [Trask River Productions](#), Tillamook's vocational ed program. Others talked about how the servers helped with research for their classes, or for looking up OYA policies.

Some shared their personal stories, like Stephen K., who had zero high school credits when he came to OYA at age 17. Today, at 22, he has a high school diploma and is halfway through his bachelor's in management and leadership at Portland State University. He plans to pursue a master's after that.

"I came as somebody who was never supposed to graduate high school, and now I'm working on a college degree," he said. "Having access to education through this technology has really changed my life.

"In jail, a lot of stuff is done for you. It's nice to have the ability to find things out for ourselves. If I have a question and need to find an answer, I know how to research it. This is training I'll be able to use the rest of my life."

Near the end of the day, Palmer thanked the youth and staff for their feedback, which he said will help Intel as it develops the next version of the CAP devices.

"These are great conversations to have as we continue to develop and troubleshoot our products," he said. "This is a perfect opportunity to stretch the limits of something that could work for customers worldwide."

Then Caesar asked those in the room whether they'd be willing to act as guinea pigs as Intel tests new products.

The youth quickly swapped glances and big smiles before offering an enthusiastic, "Yes!"



Stephen K. (center), who lives at Tillamook YCF, shares his story with Carla Caesar of Intel (left), youth Nathan S. and Tillamook superintendent Denessa Martin.