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Oregon Talent Council Announces \$2 million for Talent Development

The Oregon Talent Council has announced the award of \$2 million in grants towards its first strategic investments in talent development. "The growth of our economy is dependent on how well-equipped graduates and program completers are prepared to enter the workforce," said David Childers, Chair of the Talent Council. "These grants will support many of the talent gaps identified in the Oregon Talent Plan and we expect these efforts to provide 'role models' to influence future training methods as a result."

"I am excited to see the collaboration between education and industry," said Kay Erickson, Acting Director of the Oregon Employment Department. "The Talent Council is providing leadership and energy around innovation and partnership building, and the investments they've chosen will better prepare Oregon workers to be the first and best choice of Oregon employers."

The Council has awarded competitive grants to the following public institutions of higher education for projects that meet the urgent talent needs identified by the Council:

Mount Hood Community College (\$453,129)

Advanced Manufacturing Certification Center (AMC Center). MHCC will design and implement the AMC Center to incorporate a career pathway model for industry certifications as well as develop an Associate of Applied Science degree program in Mechatronics. The AMC Center has been planned and developed with industry leaders and will have the capacity to train 500 new and existing manufacturing workers by 2021. The project will support economic development by increasing the quantity and quality of the talent available to the over 600 manufacturers in the region by providing the best-educated and most skilled workforce possible for the community.

Oregon Health & Science University (\$672,403)

Industry Relevant Training and Research Experiences for Biomedical Engineering and Data Science Students. This proposal by OHSU in partnership with Oregon State University will provide the skilled professionals needed to sustain Oregon's growth in biomedical engineering and will integrate industry-centric training and experiential learning activities within new transdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate programs at OHSU and OSU. Together with the Oregon Bioscience Association, this proposal will establish a program enabling trainees to cross traditional disciplinary boundaries and transition from academia into commercial

enterprise through the use of industry-oriented BioPro short courses, including e-campus courses and internships.

Oregon Institute of Technology/Oregon Tech (\$340,783)

Cybersecurity Workforce Development. Oregon Tech will offer an undergraduate dual major and a graduate level certificate in cybersecurity starting in the Fall of 2016 at both the Klamath Falls and Wilsonville campuses, as well as online. Undergraduate students will earn a degree with a second major in cybersecurity in four years by completing additional specialized coursework during the summers. Cybersecurity courses will be aligned with industry standard certifications, and where possible, use actual certification exams in place of final exams, giving students additional credentials and immediate industry qualifications while they are completing their degree.

Oregon State University (\$533,686)

Pacific NW Electrical System Resiliency/Disaster Preparedness Training. This proposal addresses the urgent talent gap for energy systems engineers. OSU will partner with Portland State University and industry partners Central Lincoln Public Utility District, Portland General Electric and Pacific Power to develop graduate level, professional development, and industrial short-courses for incumbent and emerging talent in the electrical power systems area. Electrical power systems engineers will be trained for disaster preparedness and electrical system resiliency, with particular attention to a Cascadia Subduction Zone event.

The Talent Council was established by the 2015 Oregon Legislature, which also established an Oregon Talent Council Fund of \$6.1 million, to seed investments in talent development programs. The Talent Council works with industry, workforce and the Oregon higher education community to help fill high wage, high demand occupations in the State. More information on the Council and the Oregon Talent Plan can be found at the Council's website: oregontalentcouncil.org.