



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



Organization

Backbone Organization: Oregon Institute of Technology
Counties in Region: Marion, Polk, Yamhill, Clackamas, parts of Washington
Sq. Miles in Region: 4,535
STEM Hub Director: Julia Betts
Email: Julia.betts@oit.edu
Website: smssp-stem.oit.edu

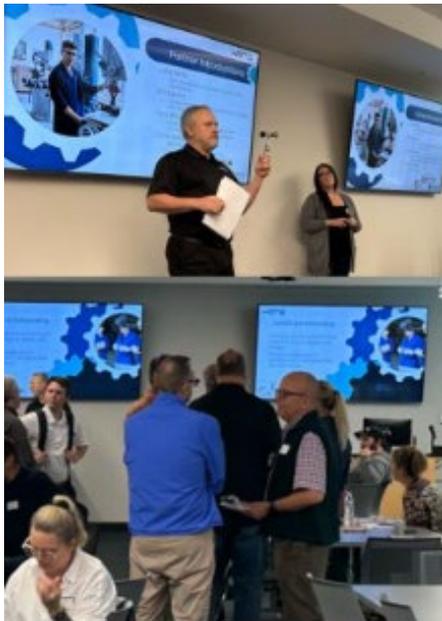
By the Numbers

School Districts	33
Students	146,091
Educators Participating in PD	156
Educator Hours in PD	2,196
Students Participated in Programs	3,023
Hours of Programming Offered	1,263
Student Hours in STEM Programs	22,079

Collective Impact: Aligning Education and Industry Needs

The South Metro-Salem STEM Partnership (SMSP) mobilizes cross-sector partners—including educators, industry, and workforce leaders—through the Clackamas County Advanced Manufacturing Regional Action Coalition (AMRAC) to align education with regional workforce needs. Guided by WBTO’s 2023 Regional Needs Assessment (RNA), SMSP and partners including Clackamas Community College, Clackamas Workforce Partnership, and Clackamas ESD strengthened manufacturing pathways across six Clackamas County high schools through coordinated instructor training, equipment repair, and targeted donations.

This collective effort enhanced educator capacity in CNC machining and manufacturing operations, ensured critical machinery was functional for student training, and provided over \$20,000 in new and refurbished equipment to modernize programs. Through shared data, resources, and continuous alignment among schools, colleges, and employers, SMSP is advancing an equitable, countywide approach to closing skills gaps and preparing students for high-demand careers in Oregon’s manufacturing sector. Ongoing work for AMRAC partners includes improved internship and apprenticeship opportunities, industry-standard alignment certification programs, and a web-based portal to connect employers and educators for SW Washington and Oregon.



Strengthening Math and Science Instruction

SMSP is advancing equity-centered improvements in math and science education statewide. Through *Math 108: Data Science Explorations*, SMSP trained over 20 educators from high schools, community colleges, and universities to deliver relevant, career-aligned math instruction. In collaboration with Lane STEM and the Oregon Department of Education, the *Mathways +1 Dual Credit Initiative* plans to support 70+ additional instructors expanding access to rigorous 100-level courses across the state. At the elementary level, *Stepping Stones to Science* unites five STEM Hubs—Lane, Portland Metro, East Metro STEAM, SMSP, and Oregon Coast—alongside six educational service districts spanning ten counties. Launched in Fall 2025, pilots are guided by shared metrics, classroom observations, and teacher feedback to measure equity, engagement, and instructional quality. This collaboration builds statewide capacity for integrating science and literacy instruction, ensuring Oregon’s youngest learners develop

both STEM knowledge and strong reading foundations.

Career Connected Learning: Building a Diverse Healthcare Workforce

The *IGNITE Healthcare* initiative exemplifies career-connected learning in action—linking high school students, colleges, and employers to grow Oregon’s future healthcare workforce. Through the Youth Health Corps and Healthcare Summer Camps, students earn certifications, college credit, and paid work-based experience that connect classroom learning to real-world healthcare careers. Designed to remove barriers and foster belonging, IGNITE serves historically underserved students—such as the Canby 2025 cohort (75% Hispanic/Latinx, 63% first-



generation collegegoers, 94% bilingual). With 93–100% retention, 85–95% pursuing healthcare education or careers, and over 90% reporting belonging and satisfaction, IGNITE strengthens equitable career pathways while aligning education, workforce, and community partners to build a diverse, skilled healthcare talent pipeline. Partners include Clackamas Community College, Clackamas and Willamette Education Service Districts, Clackamas and Willamette Workforce Partners, Salem Health, Legacy Health, Kaiser Permanente, PHOTOS and We are Healers.