Digital Learning Quarterly Newsletter

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In this Issue

- Introduction to this Newsletter
- Quarterly Focus: Spotlight on Career Connected Learning (CCL) and Career & Technical Education (CTE)
- Digital Learning in CTE and CCL: Examples from Across Oregon
- Upcoming Professional Learning and Events

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Introduction to this Newsletter

The Oregon Digital Learning Quarterly Newsletter from ODE is designed to provide creative frameworks, tools, and strategies for school leaders and teachers as they plan and implement digital learning across all instructional models. The newsletter aims to engage Oregon educators in all things digital learning through a focus on equity and promising practices.

The Key Components of Digital Learning (the 'Key Components') is a great starting place for schools and districts to turn to when designing, planning, and implementing digital learning. The Key Components of Digital Learning is intended to serve as a foundational resource for districts to utilize in the planning, implementation, and development of strong leadership for digital learning. This issue focuses on the intersection of digital learning and CTE (Career and Technical Education) and CCL (Career Connected Learning).
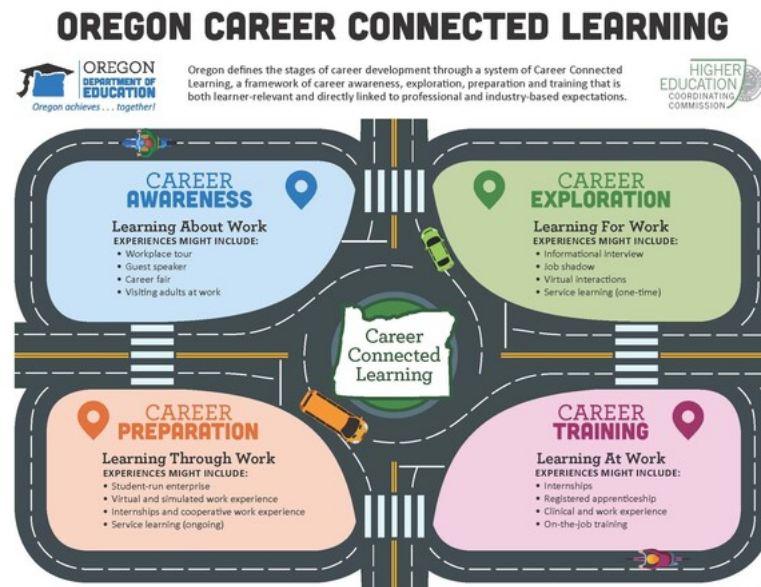
We encourage you to join us for our May Teaching and Tech Session where we will learn from educators across Oregon integrating digital learning within CCL learning opportunities and CTE Programs of Study. You can learn about this session in the Upcoming Professional Learning and Events section at the end of this newsletter. In addition, we encourage you to bookmark ODE's Digital Learning Website for more information and resources regarding digital learning including archived newsletters.

Quarterly Focus: Spotlight on Career Connected Learning (CCL) and Career Technical Education (CTE)

What is Career Connected Learning (CCL)?

Oregon defines the states of career development through a system of Career Connected Learning (CCL)—a framework of career awareness, exploration, preparation, and training that is both learner-relevant and directly linked to professional and industry-based expectations. The CCL framework encompasses four key stages: career awareness, career exploration, career preparation, and career training. The accompanying visual highlights experiences that students might engage in within each of the stages of career development.

This includes Career Preparation and Training (Work-Based Learning) and Career Awareness and Exploration (website coming soon).

What is Career Technical Technical (CTE)?

Career and Technical Education (CTE) embraces education, passion, and curiosity to fuel the future for Oregon students. CTE programs use 21st century technology to support students in acquiring technical skills, professional practices, and academic knowledge critical for career success in high-wage, in-demand careers.

CTE programs are offered in six career areas: Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Systems, Arts, Information and Communications, Business and Management, Health Sciences, Human Resources, and Industrial and Engineering Systems. You can learn more about these six career areas as well as find additional resources and information including student testimonials on ODE's CTE website.

How can leveraging digital learning increase school capacity to provide access to CTE and career connected learning?

Research shows that secondary CTE credit is positively related to on-time high school graduation and higher annual earnings. However, the same study also identifies opportunity gaps in participation among underrepresented student groups within CTE programs. You can read the summary of the report as well as the full report here – "New Evidence Links Oregon Career and Technical Education to Higher Graduation Rates, Earnings." Additional data can be viewed on the "Oregon CTE Participation Explorer Dashboard". This dashboard provides participation and concentration rates of high school students in CTE Programs of Study, both at the state level and by CTE consortium and school district, from academic years 2015/16 to 2020/21.

Given these opportunity gaps, it is important that schools and districts use data to make informed decisions regarding who does and who does not have access to CTE Programs of Study. Research has shown that **leveraging technology** can help to address these opportunity gaps. You can read more about strategies to leverage technology here:

- Leveraging Career and Technical Education to Prepare Students for College and Career Success
- Making Good on the Promise: Expanding Access to Opportunity
- Five Steps to Expand Access to High-Quality CTE in Rural School

Schools and districts are also encouraged to consider ways to leverage technology to increase equitable opportunities for all students. Some questions to consider and use in the data collection and planning process include:

- *How can leveraging technology expand access and reach to students living in rural areas?*

- *How can leveraging technology provide UDL and accessibility support for students with disabilities?*
- *How can leveraging technology provide language scaffolds and supports for multilingual learners?*
- *How can leveraging technology create opportunities to connect learners with industry experts?*
- *How can leveraging technology in addition to building local partnerships provide students with course access and work based learning opportunities?*
- *How can leveraging technology create opportunities for students to see themselves represented in future careers (that might not be possible within their local community)?*

Additionally, in a recent study conducted by Dell, "37% of Gen Z said their education did not adequately prepare them with technology skills they would need for their job." You can read more about the study here: "Gen Z has a tech skills gap at work. Here's why." This statistic highlights the need for schools to support students in technology skills related to workforce development in order to ensure that students enter the workforce confident and prepared.

Utilizing the Key Components of Digital Learning can provide schools and districts with a starting point for technology skills development, particularly in the areas of pedagogy and practice (pp. 9-10) and digital learning readiness and capacity (pp. 16-19). Examples of current and upcoming programs to support this intentional integration include:

Open Opportunities for Oregon Educators:

The opportunities below are open for all Oregon educators to participate in and engage with. These opportunities align with Oregon's Career Connected Learning goals and provide educators and students with opportunities to engage with CTE learning through technology. For more information about these opportunities, contact Beth Molencamp at beth.molenkamp@ode.oregon.gov.

- **Career Journeys Videos Series**: Through partnerships with the community, ODE developed a Career Journeys Video Series which include videos and integrated lessons aligned with the six CTE career areas. These videos and lessons are available for all Oregonians (and are translated into Spanish, Russian, Somali, Vietnamese, Arabic, and Chinese). You can access the Career Journeys Video Series at https://www.careerjourneys.org/.
- **AllforOregonCIS**: The original career information system, OregonCIS, has been updated and is now available to all Oregonians. AllforOregonOR CIS is an online platform focusing on providing all Oregonians (students and adults) with career connected learning supports. This opportunity is available to all schools and includes access to administrative tools, regular office hours and training dates.

Current Oregon CTE and CCL Pilot Studies

The below pilot studies are currently being implemented in Oregon schools as a way to support continued learning in the areas of CTE and CCL. These pilot opportunities are currently closed for participation, however, be on the lookout for findings as a result of each pilot and future opportunities to be involved.

- **Career Connected Learning Grants:** These grant funds support pilot programs that are providing access to YouScience.
- **E-Dynamic Pilot:** Access to a web-based curriculum designed to provide remote and frontier middle schools with supports and resources to create awareness of CTE and prepare them for high school.
- **Money Vehicle**: Access to an online platform designed to support students' financial literacy.

Get the Career Connected Learning newsletter by signing up for the CCL Listserv. To receive CTE Update, please join the CTE and STEM grant update newsletter.

Digital Learning in CTE and CCL: Examples from Across Oregon

This section highlights schools, districts, and ESDs across Oregon that are integrating digital learning within their CCL learning opportunities and CTE Programs of Study. We recognize that this only represents a snapshot of the beautiful work happening across Oregon and would love to hear from you about work happening in your classrooms, schools, districts, and organizations (contact information at the bottom of the newsletter).

In this newsletter, we are spotlighting the work of Willamette ESD who has developed online courses based on the CCL Framework and Henley High School who is participating in the YouScience Pilot Project. You can read about their work and get valuable resources in the "Digital Learning Quarterly Newsletter Spotlight: CTE and CCL in Oregon."

Upcoming Professional Learning and Events

Teaching & Tech: Cadre Connection

Who: All educators interested in learning about ways to integrate technology into their classrooms and connect with other educators around the state to learn and grow in their craft.

What: An opportunity for educators to come together monthly to learn something new (a new technology integration framework, approach, strategy), discuss digital learning problems of practice, talk about "tech" they are excited about, and connect with other educators across the state! Educators can join us every month or whenever they have the capacity. ****The May session (May 4th) will feature a panel discussion focused on strategies to embed digital learning within CCL learning opportunities and CTE Programs of Study.****

When: The first Thursday of each month, 4:00-5:00PM.

Where: Teaching & Tech: Cadre Connection will take place on Zoom. Educators can register here. There will be an option to register for the entire series or those sessions you are able to attend.

Multilingual/English Learner Resource Bank

The Oregon Open Learning Team is pleased to announce that the **Multilingual/English Learner Resource Bank is now available!**

The Multilingual/English Learner Resource Bank was created to support HB 3499 (2015). This bill directed the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to create an online resource bank for sharing evidence-based, culturally responsive best and promising practices for serving multilingual/English Learner students and engaging their families.

During the 2021-22 school year, a cohort of Oregon educators worked on the "OER Development Grant: Supporting Students who are Emergent Bilingual" project. Together, they participated in professional learning and went through a process of developing, piloting, iterating, and evaluating lesson plans to contribute to the Oregon English Language Development group. At the end of the project, the final lesson plans were evaluated using the Oregon OER Quality Framework. The lessons that met this high quality standard are now featured as the first resources in the Multilingual/English Learner Resource Bank.

A big shout out to all of the grantees for their hard work on this project! We look forward to seeing this collection grow.

Sex Ed Open Learning

We are pleased to share the Sex Ed Open Learning Project's collection of free, openly licensed, and standards-based sexuality education instructional materials on the Oregon Open Learning Hub.

Click here to access the Sex Ed Open Learning Collection

Through collaboration with numerous school districts, non-profit organizations, educators, and students, six organizations from across Oregon created nearly 40 openly licensed sexuality education lesson plans. The collection provides optional lessons for educators to use as they meet Oregon Health Education Standards in kindergarten through twelfth grade. **All lessons are aligned with Oregon Health Education Standards, the Human Sexuality Education Rule (OAR 581-022-2050), and are comprehensive, age-appropriate, inclusive and present sexuality as a positive, natural part of human development.** These lessons are optional and accessible to any district or school, free of cost.

The Sex Ed Open Learning Project User Guide provides a brief overview of the program and technical advice for navigating the collection.

Engaging Equity Professional Learning Series

Engaging Equity: Equitable Mindsets, Practices, and Systems is an openly licensed professional learning series developed in partnership by the Oregon Department of Education's Office of Education Innovation and Improvement and WestEd. The series is designed for participation in teams, PLCs, or other groups, and also available to individuals. Learners can access the content through a public Canvas course, or the modules can be imported into your organization's Canvas LMS.

The first four modules of the series focus on Racial Equity Foundations and they are now available on the Oregon Open Learning Hub in the PK-12 Professional Learning Group. Each module should take 60-90 minutes for the learner to complete. Additional modules are in development and will be available on the Hub as soon as they are published. For more details, view the full scope and sequence for the professional learning series.

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