

RHS awarded pre-college engineering education grant

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

REDMOND, Ore. - The Oregon University System has announced that the Engineering & Technology Industry Council (ETIC) awarded Redmond School District a \$48,683 grant to strengthen and expand educational programs for students interested in pursuing engineering careers. The "Students Pursuing a Career in Engineering Project" will expand Redmond High School's Engineering Academy by establishing course offerings in aerospace engineering, biotechnical engineering, civil engineering and architecture in conjunction with Project Lead the Way, through professional development, equipment, and program recruitment. The grant was one of six Pre-College Grants statewide supporting efforts to improve the pipeline of highly skilled engineering and technology students in K-12 and postsecondary education. A total of \$390,000 total in grants will fund six model programs sponsored by Oregon public colleges, universities and school districts to expand the state's ability to motivate and prepare students for success in engineering and high technology careers. The Redmond School District is one of three grantees that will utilize the successful, nationally applied Project Lead the Way curriculum and teacher training, provided by the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT). Jonathon Bullock, D.Ed., Principal, Redmond High School, says, "This grant allows Redmond High School to expand our Engineering Academy to include biomechanical engineering, aeronautical engineering, and civil engineering. We are excited about our partnership with Project Lead the Way and the OIT, and we are confident that the grant funding from ETIC will allow us to accomplish our goal of preparing students to pursue careers in the field of engineering. Additionally, this grant will help us focus our recruiting efforts to be certain that under-represented populations have opportunities for success in our program." The Pre-College Grants supports ETIC's strategy to "grow our own" Oregon engineers and computer scientists, and ultimately double the number of engineering and computer science college grads in Oregon to support the industry and economy. The grants also support the Oregon Pre-engineering and Applied Science Initiative (OPAS), a collaboration of industry, education, and policy leaders who have been tackling the pressing need for improvement in pre-engineering and applied science educational pipelines since 2005. Bruce Schafer, executive director of ETIC, says, "The ETIC grant committee and OPAS leadership are very excited about the quality projects this biennium's grants support, and for all the students whose eyes will be opened and futures widened as a result of their great work. It is so important to expand student pathways toward these promising careers, and to foster Oregon-grown talent and skills for its high-tech industries." The six grant recipients were: * Redmond School District; * Health & Science High School (Beaverton, Oregon); * Portland Community College; * Salem-Keizer School District; * The SMILE Program at Oregon State University; and * University of Oregon Material Sciences Institute. The awards were given to programs that advance pre-engineering education efforts through a broad range of outreach, student programs, and curricula that motivate and prepare tomorrow's engineers and scientists. The grantees will serve students across the state from Portland to Hermiston, from Salem to Redmond, and many of the grantee programs will target or expand educational services to underrepresented students, including rural, minority, and female students in an effort to recruit new talent.

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