

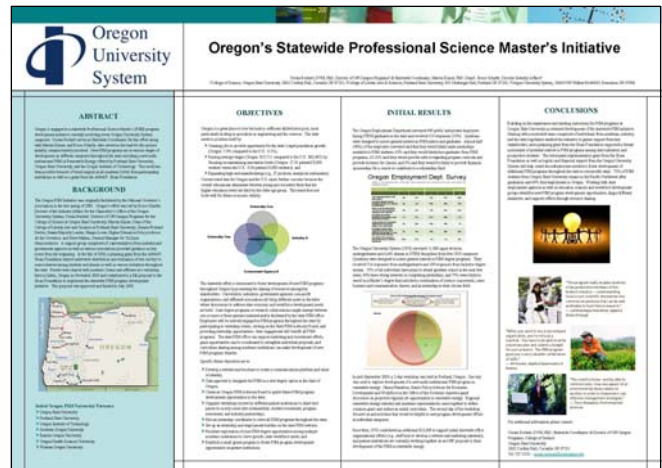
Oregon Statewide Initiative

Ursula Bechert, Director of Off-Campus Programs, College of Science, Oregon State University, and President, National Professional Science Master's Association (NPSMA)

Oregon recently received a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to implement its statewide PSM program development initiative. Ursula Bechert, Director of Off-Campus Programs for the College of Science at Oregon State University, is serving as coordinator for this effort along with Marvin Kaiser, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Portland State University.

The Oregon PSM Initiative was originally facilitated by the National Governors' Association in 2008 and initially led by Bruce Schafer, Executive Director of the Engineering and Technology Industry Council and Director of Industry Affairs for the Chancellor's Office of the Oregon University System (OUS). Additional team members included Senator Richard Devlin, Senate Majority Leader, Margie Lowe, Governor's Higher Education Policy Advisor, and Steve Mahon, General Manager for TriQuint Semiconductor.

Oregon State University (OSU) has been serving as the lead institution since it is currently the only university in the Pacific Northwest to offer PSM programs (<http://psm.science.oregonstate.edu>). That will soon change with PSM programs in various stages of development at seven of the OUS campuses including Southern Oregon University, Eastern Oregon University, Portland State



University (PSU), Oregon Health Sciences University, Western Oregon University, and the Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT).

A two-day workshop hosted by PSU in mid-September launched the statewide effort. One day was used to explore development of a new multi-institutional PSM program in renewable energy. Nancy Hamilton, Senior Policy Advisor for Economic Development and Workforce in the Office of the Governor spoke at the opening dinner event and chaired a panel discussion on projected regional job opportunities in renewable energy. Representatives from the Oregon Employment Department, academic partner institutions (OSU, PSU and OIT), as well as various renewable energy industries (e.g. SolarWorld Industries America, Energy Trust of Oregon, Portland General Electric and Vestas

America) came together to outline the program structure and curriculum.

The second day of the workshop focused on PSM best practices and activities that would be helpful to new program development efforts at individual campuses. Carol Lynch of the Council of Graduate Schools described current policy initiatives underway; Sheila Tobias shared an update on national statewide PSM initiatives and lessons learned; Carol Stoel from the National Science Foundation provided information about their PSM grants program; and Stephen Lemire gave an overview of NPSMA best practices and national coordination initiatives. We were fortunate to have so many national leaders participate in this event! Helping lead discussions on industry partnerships, program sustainability, and marketing were Stephan Crothers from San Jose State University, John Nishio from CSU in Chico, and Faramarz Valafar from San Diego State University. We ended our workshop by listening to the experiences of some OSU PSM alumni, which was inspirational.

Activities for Oregon's statewide PSM effort will next focus on developing an Oregon PSM Advisory Board, creating a website and brochure, drafting a proposal to designate the PSM as a unique graduate degree recognized throughout the OUS, organizing additional workshops to facilitate cooperative program development efforts and sharing best practices, and establishing a small grants program.