OAESD Welcomes New Executive Director

This summer, Gary Peterson was named to replace Jim Mabbott as the new Executive Director of OAESD. Gary was the past superintendent of Columbia Gorge ESD and has a long history as an educator in Oregon. He was a middle school teacher, high school principal and district superintendent. He also served on the OAESD Officer Council for the past four years and most recently was the President of the Superintendent Council. Gary and his wife, Malina, have recently relocated from The Dalles to Corvallis.

Gary’s initial priorities in this new role are to continue to develop and enhance OAESD’s relationships with key statewide education partners, including Oregon Department of Education and the Chief Education Office. He also wants to prepare the groundwork for various state initiatives which need ESD participation for successful implementation. He plans to visit the board meetings of each member ESD within the next six months and get to know their culture and understand how they work with their local districts. He looks forward to supporting the work of ESD superintendents and Boards as they, in turn, support education throughout the state.

OAESD Legislative Priorities

The 79th Oregon legislative session is just around the corner. OAESD has developed a number of legislative priorities. To see the full list, please follow this link.

Areas of high priority for OAESD will be advocating for a P-20 Regional Delivery System. Many ESD boards have already seen a draft position paper outlining a consolidation of various statewide initiatives such as Regional Achievement Collaboratives; Early Learning HUBs; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Hubs; Career Technical Education; and Oregon Promise Replication.

OAESD will continue to push for increased funding for programs supported outside the State School Fund. These include Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education, Regional Programs (low incidence/high costs programs such as vision, autism, and hearing impaired), and Long Term Care and Treatment programs (for students in residential and day-treatment mental health facilities).

As in past years, OAESD will have a lobbyist, Dr. Ozzie Rose, in Salem representing the interest of ESDs statewide. He will also be providing feedback and updates on education related issues as they develop in Salem. If you want to stay engaged with any of these OASED priorities, please contact Gary Peterson at gpeterson@oaesd.org or 541-408-3153.

OAESD Fall Summit

We hope you were able to attend the OAESD Fall Summit in Portland on November 10. It is one of the two times each year that ESD staff, board members, and superintendents come together to for professional education, networking, and discussing statewide issues.

Highlights from this year’s Summit include a presentation from Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps and Oregon Innovation Officer Colt Gill about regionalism and State education priorities. Then, small groups worked to develop and refine ideas around a P-20 Support Network. The new OAESD Program Cabinet provided an overview of the work

Dr. Noor opened his presentation by saying, "He
they have been doing and Oregon State Patrol co-presented about establishing a statewide threat assessment system. To wrap up the day, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Salam Noor spoke.

He loves ESDs and they do amazing work.” He spent time outlining a vision for a P-20 network and said that ESDs are uniquely positioned to bring together parents, parent groups, non-profits, higher education, mental health, and other community partners as this concept takes shape. Dr. Noor said when he thinks regional delivery models, he thinks ESDs.

He continued talking about Oregon Department of Education’s commitment to equitable outcomes for all students, despite the potential challenge of a 1.4 billion dollar funding deficit for this upcoming legislative session.

If you were not able to attend the Fall Summit, you can follow this link to view some of the PowerPoint presentations. Or, you can follow this link to see the responses to the ‘World Café’ exercise about ESDs developing a Regional Delivery System. Mark your calendars for the Spring OAESD Conference on May 18 to 20 at Eagle Crest Resort in Central Oregon.

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**ESD Teachers Now Qualify for Loan Forgiveness**

Northwest Regional ESD has been working with the Oregon Department of Education on revising their rules and eligibility requirements of the Federal Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program. ESDs are now listed on the eligible school directory. This means ESD teachers could potential qualify for up to $17,500 in loan forgiveness. To be eligible, over 30% of the K-12 students they serve must be on free and reduced lunch. Oregon Department of Education also clarified that EI/ECSE educators can be eligible to apply under certain circumstances.

By now, your ESD should have received a letter from Theresa Richardson at Oregon Department of Education explaining these new eligibility requirements. If you have not, please contact Emily Swope at emily.swope@ode.state.or.us. For additional information, please follow this link. Thanks to Northwest Regional for their hard work and effort on this important issue.

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Does your ESD have something interesting going on the rest of the state should know about? Send your ideas or suggestion to tucker@oaesd.org

**Oregon Association of Education Service Districts** is a partnership between: Clackamas, Columbia Gorge, Douglas, Harney, High Desert Intermountain, Jefferson, Lake, Lane, Linn, Benton, Lincoln, Malheur, Multnomah, Northwest Regional, South Coast, Southern Oregon, and Willamette Education Service Districts.