



# RECap

CTE News from  
Around the Region

*The Mid-Willamette Education Consortium*

Fall 2009

*Serving Marion, Polk, Yamhill & Lincoln Counties*

## 13 Teacher Teams Participate in Math-in-CTE Workshop

The Math-in-CTE workshop hosted by our region for agriculture, business and industrial teachers was a successful weeklong workshop. Twenty-four teachers participated and



**Joe Shepherd and Remy Strapp, the North Marion team, work together on lessons.**

learned how to create and present math-enhanced lessons. Those CTE teachers who attended were amazed at how much math they actually teach on a given day and were challenged to use math terminology in the lessons they developed during the week.

The Math-in-CTE model is not a curriculum; rather, it is a process and a pedagogy through which the math that naturally occurs in existing CTE curricula may be enhanced. In other words, CTE teachers are not asked to replace their curriculum. Instead, while working with math teacher partners in larger communities of practice, they learn to interrogate the

curricula they already teach in order to identify the intersection of CTE and math concepts. They then create math-enhanced CTE lessons using a seven-element pedagogic model and develop scope and sequence plans for integrating the lessons into their courses. Between the workshops, CTE teachers meet regularly with their math partners as they prepare to teach the lessons.

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## ODOT Grant Supports Area High Schools

In an effort to increase construction related skills among high school students, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) provided funding for five area high schools (Santiam, Roberts, Gervais, Lord, and Yamhill Carlton). The Mid-Willamette Education Consortium, in collaboration with Chemeketa Community College programs solicited projects from schools that maintained a focus on construction training. Projects totaled almost \$82,000 and included the following:

- New custom covered trailer and generator for mobile projects for Santiam High School and “Wolverines Working for You”
- A deck for the new Yurt project at Roberts High School built by students
- Supplies for garden sheds, dog houses, and a horticulture propagation shed all built by Gervais High School students
- New construction equipment and supplies for Lord High School
- 30 new laptops from Dell and a construction related curriculum series that includes online work with NCCER for Yamhill Carlton High School

*From the Director:*

## Fall, Football & Teamwork

Ahhh.... I always love fall—the crispness of the air, the changing color of the leaves, the sounds of football. In education, of course, it is also the start of a new school year. Friendly rivalries develop as each team strives to be the best.



**Trish Hakola**

This year, professional development throughout the Mid-Willamette Education Consortium's region will tie into the Professional Learning Community (PLC) work many of our districts have undertaken, while keeping us on track to meet the requirements of Perkins IV.

A PLC is defined as "...a collaboration of teachers, administrators, parents, and students, who work together to seek out best practices, test them in the classroom, continuously improve processes, and focus on results".

Since I'm on a football "kick" right now, we'll look at the three big ideas of a PLC and how they are similar to the goals in football:

1. Focus on Learning (learn all you can about your own team, the game, and your opponent in order to be successful);
2. Collaboration (a team must work together in order to achieve their goals);
3. Focus on Results (for a Pac-10 team, the smell of roses in the air on New Year's Day...).

As a region, we have many teachers who are a "one man show" within the four walls of their school. They have an opportunity to collaborate with other educators when looking at individual students, but they are unable to collaborate around data that is specific to what they teach.

The question we will be looking at this year is, "How can we take these basic tenets of a PLC and push past the school and district levels to meet the needs of the students and teachers within a region?" You will see this as a common thread through our professional development offerings from TnT to Regional Institute.

For those of you who are football fans, you have probably heard of Coach Vince Lombardi. The MWEC team looked at many Lombardi quotes over the summer and chose one to "adopt" for the year. I will leave you with that quote: "If you'll not settle for anything less than your best, you will be amazed at what you can accomplish in your lives." -Vince Lombardi

Have a great fall, and I look forward to working with all of you!

## Program of Study Update

Kudos goes out to all the agriculture programs in our region! All programs that were submitted passed with flying colors. Now that we have a system in place, our other program planning should go smoothly.

This year marks the second year in our program of study work. This year's programs of focus will be in the following areas: marketing, office systems, administration, visual communications, cosmetology, business technologies, communications technologies, and business management. For those programs whose expiration date says "2010" you will be required to attend meetings about your program of study, or you will not be able to access Perkins funding. All other programs will be doing "desk audits" again this year.

Our first TnT session will focus around programs of study and will include activities for both those programs expiring this year and those who are doing the desk audit. The TnT sessions focusing on programs of study are on November 4th at Chemeketa's Salem Campus and November 5th at Dallas High School.

One of the key components of the program of study will be articulation with a community college. Most of you are articulated with Chemeketa. At the TnT session we will be having the appropriate departments from Chemeketa attend so that we can work on strengthening that articulation piece.

## USDA Challenge Grant Supports Teachers and Curriculum

Chemeketa received a USDA Challenge grant for the Horticulture Career Pathways Project on July 1, 2008. Its purpose is to increase the number



of students that pursue Chemeketa's Horticulture degree and are available for employment in the nursery/greenhouse industry.

Grant activities have moved into high gear. Several teachers from around the region have been participating in activities related to the grant. On April 9 eleven schools representing 94 students participated in the second annual Horticulture Field Day on Chemeketa's Salem campus.

Students had the opportunity to participate in workshops, such as composting, bonsai, irrigation, sustainable landscaping, green roofs, seed propagation, and woody plant ID. Many got to take home plants. In addition, they were exposed to the educational opportunities at Chemeketa.

The next event the teachers participated in was a week long Horticulture Institute organized by the Chemeketa Horticulture Department and taught by Gail Gredler. Twenty-one teachers or future teachers, including thirteen from the MWECC region, attended this institute.

During this week, teachers were introduced to various teaching tools and techniques they may use for teaching their horticulture students.

The course content for the week included propagation, greenhouse basics, plant identification, ecological

horticulture, nursery production and landscape design. The teaching approach was practical and hands-on that included classroom, labs, and field trips. They were also given college credit through Oregon State University if they chose to receive it.

At the conclusion of the institute each teacher from the MWECC region had the opportunity to place an order for books, supplies, and/or equipment that will enhance their ability to deliver College Credit Now (CCN) Horticulture courses.

Internships for both the teachers and the students involved in horticulture are currently being planned. These internships need to be at least one week in length and pertain to the types of horticulture programs at Chemeketa.

As per the grant, we must have a certain number of teachers and students take part in this activity.

Finally, this upcoming year should prove to be exciting for the students as several teachers are setting up industry tours with the local producers in our region. These businesses are eager to enrich the student's horticulture knowledge and should provide some very beneficial tours.

These are a grant activity also, and guidelines have been distributed to



area teachers that will qualify them for transportation support for the tours. Per grant requirements there must be a minimum number of students participate.

# What Can Intro to Computer Science Do For You?

Chemeketa Community College is expanding dual credit opportunities in our area high schools with CS160, Introduction to Computer Science. This college transfer level class consists of a survey of computer science



and pre-engineering topics using a collaborative, co-instructional approach between high schools and community colleges.

Topics include overviews of professional and educational pathways in computing oriented careers, basic computer architecture, introduction to number systems, digital logic and digital circuits, binary systems and data representations, machine and assembly languages, operating systems, high level programming languages, algorithms and data structures, structured problem solving techniques, software engineering, and an introduction to computational theory (computability and complexity).

Chemeketa has been offering this class online for the past 4 years using Blackboard/WebCT to host the online learning environment. The class cur-

rently uses only online, free use resources (no textbooks) including NSF-funded, university-developed materials supporting the ACM CS0 course guidelines and outcomes.

Course evaluation utilizes lab and exercise modules supporting the course outcomes, regular online quizzes, and a final exam. These are supported by the online learning materials and tutorials, hands on lab activities, an online discussion board, and instructor interaction (online and in person).

Of special interest is a possible Discrete Math component that may, once approved, count toward high school graduation requirements.

Chemeketa will provide access to the online learning environment for CS160, all of the curriculum (with on-going input from the HS co-instructors), and training to the HS co-instructors on course content and labs.

Evaluation of examinations will be done by the Chemeketa instructor of record; evaluation and support of lab activities and exercises done by the HS co-instructors.

Direct mentoring of the students

(when they are not able to comprehend the online instructional materials) will be first handled by the local HS co-instructor, with the Chemeketa instructor providing second level mentoring.

All students participating in the class from all schools will have access to an online discussion and collaboration board that will be monitored by all co-instructors and the Chemeketa instructor of record.

Chemeketa will provide 4 to 6 hours of in-lab training prior to instruction with funding provided through the Mid-Willamette Education Consortium.

CS160 is a 4 credit class including a \$50 lab fee at a regular tuition rate of \$362. Senate Bill 300 funding may be used or self-pay is also a payment



option. This class will be offered during the second semester for area high schools. If interested, please call our office at 503.399.5239 for additional information.

## Santiam Students Work as Forestry Interns

Santiam High School took full advantage of federal stimulus grants last spring, submitting applications for two through the Oregon Youth Employment Initiative, both of which were funded. The result was that 27 students (as well as five adults who served as crew leaders) had an opportunity to work with the U.S. Forest Service throughout the summer. Students completed jobs such as cutting trails, cleaning up campgrounds, preparing spawning beds along the river, and even clearing a fire trail just weeks before fire crews needed it to fight a wildfire.

The opportunity was a great chance for kids to learn what is required to perform a job well, and for the Forest Service to see what the kids are truly capable of doing. In many cases

this was the first job for a student and they had an opportunity to learn valuable “soft” skills including teamwork, showing up on time, doing the job even if they “didn’t want to”, and being personally accountable. They also built friendships and respect for others who had not previously been in their circle of friends, as well as finding themselves in better shape as a result of the physically challenging work.

Superintendent Brad Yates hopes to receive similar grants in the near future, in order to be able to provide employment to kids on the weekends throughout the school year. Congressman Schrader even

visited the students to learn their feelings about the program and how it was benefitting them, their families, and their community.



Student Interns learn a variety of hard and soft skills to provide them with job readiness.

## Dayton's Mitch Coleman - 2008 Teacher of the Year

Mitch Coleman is an agriculture education teacher at Dayton High School, where he has taught for all



**Mitch Coleman**

18 of his years in education. Coleman says that he had wanted to become a teacher “for as long as I can remember.” His inspiration to become a teacher stems from watching his grandmother teach the first grade in Idaho.

“I saw students learn new things when they didn’t even know they were learning,” Coleman says. “I loved seeing her teach and wanted to be a teacher like her when I grew up.”

After working on a ranch for six years, Coleman went back to school to become an agriculture teacher in an effort to bring his desire of teaching and his experiences of ranching together.

Coleman considers his greatest contribution to teaching is his enthusiasm for helping students to discover that education is good for everyone, and that if they believe in their own abilities, they can become a success. “I believe every student can learn and that it is my job to find the way to make sure that they can learn sometimes when they don’t even want to,” Coleman says. “My teaching philosophy has always been modeled around the quote, ‘Tell me and I will forget; show me and I may

remember; involve me and I will understand.’”

Coleman’s principal at Dayton High School, Roger Lorenzen, says that Coleman and his wife, Ann, have “positively impacted countless young people in the Dayton community and beyond.”

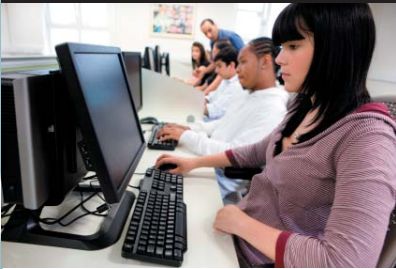
“You could find no better representative for this honor,” Lorenzen said. “Mitch is articulate, bright, and engaging. He would be a wonderful spokesperson for small schools because he is passionate about affording students the opportunities that come with the small school environment. He is the one who changes obstacles into opportunities – all for the betterment of students.”

# Regional Institute Set for February 11, 2010

The MWEC Regional Institute this year will focus on taking the “four questions” of a Professional Learning Community (PLC) and looking at how we can work as a region to answer them in order to meet the needs of our students. We are happy to announce that Jack Baldermann from Solution Tree will be our keynote speaker. The questions that we will be examining are:

1. What are the essential outcomes that we expect students to learn?
2. What assessment will we use to determine if the students have learned?
3. How will we intervene when students do not learn?
4. What will we do when students learn more than anticipated?

The first two questions will be addressed by our Programs of Study and Technical Skill Assessment work. The last two questions will be explored by bringing teachers from throughout the region together to work together on ways to address each one.



## The Mid-Willamette Education Consortium

Chemeketa Community College  
PO Box 14007  
Salem, OR 97309

Phone: 503.399.5239  
Fax: 503.399.6979  
Email: [mwec@chemeketa.edu](mailto:mwec@chemeketa.edu)

Visit us on the web at:  
[www.mwec.org](http://www.mwec.org)

## CTE Events of Interest

### Regional Events:

10/6/2009	College Credit Now Kickoff	3:30 - 7:00 pm	CCC 34/100
2/11/2010	Regional Institute	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	CCC Bldg 48
4/14-16/2010	OACTE - Sun River Resort		Sunriver Oregon

### Tools and Training:

11/4/2009	Program Of Study Dev.	3:30 - 7:00 pm	CCC 34/100
11/5/2009	Program Of Study Dev.	3:30 - 7:00 pm	Dallas HS Commons
1/13/2010	Technical Skills Assessment	3:30 - 7:00 pm	CCC 34/100
1/20/2010	Technical Skills Assessment	3:30 - 7:00 pm	McMinnville HS HTR D
1/27/2010	Technical Skills Assessment	3:30 - 7:00 pm	Lincoln County TBA
3/10/2010	Integration of Acad. & CTE	3:30 - 7:00 pm	CCC 34/100
3/17/2010	Integration of Acad. & CTE	3:30 - 7:00 pm	Cascade HS Auditorium
4/14-16/2010	OACTE - Sun River Resort		Sunriver Oregon
5/5/2010	Job Alike Best Practices	3:30 - 7:00 pm	CCC 34/100
5/12/2010	Job Alike Best Practices	3:30 - 7:00 pm	McMinnville HS HTR D
5/19/2010	Job Alike Best Practices	3:30 - 7:00 pm	Lincoln County TBA

# COLLEGE CREDIT NOW KICKOFF!



OCTOBER 6, 2009 | 3:30 - 7:00 P.M.

Chemeketa Salem Campus | Bldg 34/100

**Join us for a large group  
information session about:**

- Grading
- On-line registration
- Application process
- Course fee increase
- Placement testing
- Syllabus review
- Program meetings

**DINNER!**

**DOOR  
PRIZES!**

*Please RSVP by calling 503.399.5239!*