Oregon CIS/POCI Partnership

Oregon CIS, the Oregon Employment Department, the Oregon Department of Education, and the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development have formally joined forces to address the ongoing need for quality occupational and career information for our state’s educational and workforce development systems.

A memo of understanding is in the process of being signed by these four organizations as well the State Board of Education and the Governor’s Office of Education and Workforce Policy. This memo affirms commitment to collaboration and system improvements, ensuring that united efforts in occupational and career information development and dissemination are continued across the state of Oregon.

The cooperative effort is known as POCI – Partnership for Occupational and Career Information. Staff from the participating entities as well as others have been meeting quarterly for the past year to create the framework for the effort and to begin addressing its joint plan of work.

This partnership is our state’s response to the new national Career Resource Network. The network was created under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act to replace the National and State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee (NOICC/SoICC) network. Section 118 of the act calls for providing information and planning resources for career guidance and academic counseling programs.

Cooperation among these organizations is nothing new. However, the formal memo of understanding, committing the group to joint goals, is an important step forward to preserving and expanding the quality career resources we have in Oregon.

A CIS Career Odyssey

Sometimes in the rush of our busy lives, we rarely hear how what we do affects other people’s lives. It is always gratifying when someone takes the time to tell us. This August, during the jam-packed weeks of final information editing and system building, Kathey Kranzthor, ex-Oregonian now living in New Orleans, contacted us. She was looking for CIS for her grandson, a college sophomore who was visiting her. She remembered how much it had helped her at about the same age.

After several clarifying e-mails, we connected Kathey and her grandson to CIS for Internet. They were “thrilled to find out they could use CIS on-line.” When asked if we could share her experience from years ago, she replied, “It’s the least I can do after your help and the way CIS has affected my life. I hope it will continue to help others.”

So here’s Kathey’s story:

“I was an uncertain, unsure young woman. I had one semester of college after high school and didn’t know what I wanted to ‘be’ then and dropped out. After traveling and working in the ‘real world’ (low wages) for four or five years, I applied for and received a CETA grant and so was ready to go back to school. QUEST (editor’s note: now called Occupation Sort) was so geared to practical working, what

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News Bytes
Happenings in the world of CIS: sites, board members, staff, conference, and CIS users around the state

CIS Board Seeks Nominees for 2001 Awards

The Awards Committee of the Oregon Career Information System Board is now accepting nominations for our two annual awards, the Les Adkins Award for Career Guidance Excellence and the Nancy Hargis Award for Leadership in Career Development. Nominations must be received no later than January 29, 2001.

The Les Adkins Award is a direct service award designed to recognize practitioners or programs that directly affect people's career development through the services they offer. The Nancy Hargis Award is given to individuals, institutions, and organizations that actively promote and support career guidance and career development. A complete description of each award, its criteria for selection, and nomination instructions can be found at <http://cis.uoregon.edu/orcis/cis_board_awards_2001.htm>. You will also find a list of past award recipients there.

Please help us reward the vision, skills, and perseverance of people in our field.

New CIS Board Members Bring Range of Expertise and Experience

At its November meeting, the CIS Board welcomed five new members. These individuals bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the policy development and planning aspects of our organization. The new board members are:

Greg Fishwick, Southern Oregon consultant to the Apprenticeship and Training Division of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, has an extended background within the workforce and education fields. He holds a Ph.D. in Educational Policy and Management from the University of Oregon. As the first workforce development coordinator for the Oregon Economic Development Department, he helped implement the Targeted Training and Key Industry Training programs. He has served as director of Oregon's Technology Access for Life Needs project, which promoted the use of assistive devices for persons with disabilities. Greg's first exposure to CIS was as a counselor at Rogue Community College in the old "Needle-Sort" days. He went on to become Director of Counseling and Director of Education Reform at Lane Community College, where he worked on the Proficiencies Required for Entry into Programs (PREP) project. Loaned to the OUS Chancellor's Office, Greg assisted high schools, community colleges, and state universities in developing the Proficiency-based Admission Standards System (PASS).

Doug Jones, Regional Coordinator for Professional Technical Education (PTE) at the Crook Deschutes Education Service District has been employed at the ESD since 1996. Doug began as a Transition Specialist with the Youth Transition Program where he worked extensively with CIS. He moved on to Tech Prep Facilitator before beginning this school year as Regional Coordinator for PTE. In this role his biggest challenge and goal is to facilitate regional projects for the improvement of PTE programs in order to provide more opportunities for students.

Nan Poppe, Dean of Adult and Continuing Education at Portland Community College, has been a leader in the career and workforce development fields for the last 20 years. She has worked in the Portland metropolitan area for both Mt. Hood Community College and Portland Community College, and in Lane County. Nan brings vast expertise in workforce issues and programs to the CIS Board.

Gary Ross, Professional Technical Coordinator for the Springfield School District, is a former school media specialist and industry/engineering teacher. He has an extensive background in using technology as a classroom instructional tool. He is past president of the Northwest Council for Computer Education (NCCE) and a member of the Lane Business Education Compact Board. Gary first used CIS as a component of his classroom instruction in 1978 and has been a user/consumer ever since.

Jess McKinley, Workforce Advocate for the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, coordinates, in tandem with other agencies, the department’s statewide effort to closely link economic development entities with workforce development activities. He believes that the viability of Oregon’s economy, both in rural and urban settings, will continue to be inextricably linked to the skills of its workforce. With this in mind, it is his goal to fashion the workforce system into a more responsive and valued asset for business and industry and to enable the workforce to stay in step with the changing needs of business.
CIS ODYSSEY, continued from page 1

one would actually do every day at the job, that it was easy. The onus of who you chose to ‘be’ and the mysteries of academia were removed, and you could just see the job or work that you wanted. The two year limit that was placed on my training was easy to factor in. Never before in any testing had I been asked to consider what size city, never before had I been asked to choose a salary, whether I could lift, etc.

It is a super system, and I hope it will be as helpful to my grandson. Thanks again for putting us in touch. I will keep you posted.”

POSTSCRIPT:

“We met with success! We went to a net cafe and he was able to log on in no time. We were only able to stay on for 30 minutes, but he was able to answer the questions, get back 45 suggested careers, and investigate several. He really liked the program and is eager to go to the computers at FSU for more thorough searching. He left for Tallahassee last night, so it will all be up to him, which is what they want at this age anyway.”

NEW CIS SITES

As we noted in the September newsletter, there is good news for school districts in Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath counties. The Jackson Educational Service District is supporting the use of CIS products in all schools in these counties. This regional “full use” is part of a counseling and guidance initiative largely funded through the new Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act. Extensive staff development and curriculum integration activities are built into the regional effort. As a result of the project, some of the middle and elementary schools are new CIS sites this fall.

Other new “full use” districts in the state are:

- Baker County
- Chenowith
- Dufur
- Fern Ridge
- Fossil
- McKenzie

New sites this year include:

- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Cottage Grove High School
- Marist High School
- Portland State University, School of Business Career Center
- Waldo Middle School

Welcome to the CIS Consortium!

FALL WORKSHOP REPORT

I went to the CIS Fall Training
(Sure glad it was not raining)
To learn to point and click and scroll
Should I be a counselor or learn to bowl?*

People were very creative with their career bonto verses! (See more participant bontos on our web site!) In addition to flexing their creative writing skills, participants learned about new features and enhancements to CIS products through self-paced computer use and other learning activities.

About 370 people attended the twenty-five CIS Fall Workshops held around the state in September, October, and November. Most workshops were filled to capacity with teachers, counselors, school staff, and volunteers learning how to use CIS products effectively with students and clients. Representatives from sites attending a workshop received a set of new video CDs containing nearly 100 occupational clips.

If you were unable to attend a workshop and would like to schedule a site training or other CIS service, please call CIS at (800) 495-1266 and ask for your region’s service representative.

Oh my! we lost the game
It's for fun; there is no shame
Lots of facts we don't know
CIS will teach us though!*  
*verses written by CIS workshop participants

TECHNICAL SUPPORT IMPROVEMENTS

Delivery Systems has been busy this fall assisting people with installations and updating our Technical Support web pages. Sites are encouraged to visit the Technical Support pages to see a list of known problems and fixes, to download updated files, and to sign up for our mailing lists. We hope the new format helps you get the information you need more quickly. Information will be added and updated on a regular basis. The web site address is http://cis.uoregon.edu/orcis/TechSupport.htm.

Additionally, if you are printing school-specific program descriptions and find some of the descriptions missing on the printout, you will want to download the new CIS executables. The updates are available in the Downloads section of our Technical Support web site. You will need to contact Technical Support (majic@orcis.uoregon.edu) to obtain passwords and installation instructions.
Wow, I’m retiring; while it doesn’t seem like yesterday, it also doesn’t seem more than a quarter of a century since I started working at CIS. Way back then, we had one computer named Henrietta (I never did learn how she got her name).

One person entered all the information for CIS using Henrietta. The information analysts would type an occupational, program, or school description, give it to the computer person who would enter the information, print it, and give us the printout to proof and edit. We gave the edited description back so the changes would be entered and then analysts proofed the description again. Sometimes this process limited the number of changes we would make. Now everyone has their own computer, and we can make all the changes we want.

The main delivery systems in 1974 were needle-sort decks and mainframe computers. Now CIS is on networks, personal computers, and the Internet. In those dark ages, occupational descriptions were about 300 words long, and preparation statements were just being added. Files on industries, job search, self-employment, military, apprenticeship, financial aid, CAM endorsement areas, or national schools didn’t exist. Now they do.

Some things haven’t changed, I still work at the same gray desk although it has been moved at least five times. It’s still swamped with articles and magazines to read and with other papers too valuable to discard or file. The people I work with are wonderful and dedicated to producing quality products for the CIS users. I know I’ll miss my coworkers and the work, but I have many great memories to take with me.

Fran Miller
Occupation Analyst

Several months ago I awoke with the clear realization that I would take early retirement on January 31, 2001. Consciously I hadn’t given retirement much thought. Subconsciously I must have been working on the notion—perhaps even energetically. My “non-work” life is full to brimming. Farming, environmental activism, travel, friends, and family pull me in many stimulating directions. Retirement will afford me more time to spend in these realms.

Soon I will leave Oregon CIS, where, for the past eleven years, I have served as an information analyst gathering information on Oregon postsecondary schools and financial aid. In this work I contacted teachers, counselors, administrators, and benefactors who in countless ways invest in securing better futures for the people they teach, guide, and otherwise assist.

During my tenure, Oregon CIS, with its wealth of career and education information, has helped several hundred thousand people find and follow the path of their “life’s work.” Occupation and education information is gleaned, distilled, packaged and distributed by a talented team at CIS. I honor the good efforts of my colleagues, and those of the many teachers and counselors throughout the state who in countless ways help people creatively meet the challenges of life. Bless you all.

Nena Lovinger
Education Analyst
Now there are three Cheryls! To avoid too much confusion we all have nicknames; mine is Hawk.

As the User Services Account Specialist, I’m new at this job but not at CIS. In early 1999 I worked under Nena Lovinger’s tutelage, updating scholarship information and learning about all the research that is compiled, developed and delivered in CIS software. At that time, I’d recently used the CIS SKILLS assessment program and was impressed by the resourceful alternatives it gave me about my own career directions. Then I had the opportunity to participate in the CIS research process which enabled me to have a greater appreciation for the value career information in CIS provides.

I’m looking forward to learning the customer side of CIS, assisting in taking orders, updating the database, serving as CIS Board Secretary, assisting User Services in implementing our marketing plans and helping manage the office. Every day I learn something new about CIS, about what a unique product we create, how we are a quality-driven organization, and how our expertise, research, and development makes CIS stand out from the rest.

Cheryle Hawkins, User Services Account Specialist replacing James Cervantes who left us in September for a departmental secretory position in the College of Education

I have lived in Oregon for nearly 20 years. My interests have certainly varied over that time. Among other things, I have worked as a steel drafts person, a forest fire fighter, and a management consultant. While in college, I originally studied music yet earned a degree in business. I later returned to school and earned a master’s degree in Industrial Relations.

At my daughter’s high school, I gained firsthand experience helping students use CIS to complete classroom assignments. I was very impressed with the quality of information CIS provided and how much the students appreciated that it was available. Now that I am working at CIS, I am committed to providing that same high level of quality and service. I’m very excited to have this opportunity.

LeeAnn Sheehan, Occupation Analyst replacing Fran Miller

Originally from Rhode Island, I recently arrived to Eugene from Washington State where I served as an AmeriCorps volunteer for two years where I helped children learn forest ecology and helped community members find volunteer opportunities. For those not familiar with this program, AmeriCorps is similar to Peace Corps in that you become a full-time volunteer (with the exception that service is done domestically instead of internationally).

As in my AmeriCorps work, I bring to CIS a commitment to service, a desire to help others help themselves, and pride in my work. I am happy to join a team of people committed to quality service and will strive to provide you with the same quality education information Nena has provided.

Wendy Aleman, Interim Education Analyst, filling in for Nena Lovinger

Equipment Specifications to Change for CIS 2001-02

For our Windows users: We want to remind any of you still using Windows 3.1 for your CIS computers that as of Fall 2001, CIS will no longer support Windows 3.1. (This information was also shared in fall workshops and published in our 2000-2001 catalog.)

For our Macintosh users: Apple is introducing a new operating system for Macintosh computers this spring. In testing the beta version of Mac OS X, CIS programmers found that they need to make programming changes. Once these changes are made for the Mac OS X, CIS for Macintosh will run only on the PowerPC or Macintosh computers installed with Mac OS 8.1 or greater. (At the time of this newsletter publication, we do not yet have a firm date for the change. This means that in either Fall 2001 or 2002, we will have to discontinue support for 68K versions.)

We understand that maintaining and upgrading your equipment in your offices and career centers continues to be a struggle for many of you. Please let us know as soon as possible if either of these changes will negatively impact your use of CIS. Please e-mail C.J. Johnson at majic@orcis.uoregon.edu with your concerns and questions.

Check the CIS web site <http://cis.uoregon.edu/orcis/> for updates and details on Keywords Articles
WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK ON SPANISH OCCUPATION SORT

Have you noticed Occupation Sort en Español (see Exploration in CIS and CIS Jr)? Please let us know if you are using this new component! E-mail Romella Lee at rlee@orcis.uoregon.edu to inform us how you are using it and if you have any suggestions.

Occupation Sort will be undergoing major revisions over the next two years as we modify our occupation information in response to the new O*NET data from the US Department of Labor. At the same time, we will need to review and make corresponding changes in the Spanish version. Specific information from our sites about the usefulness of Occupation Sort en Español will help us determine how and when to make the changes.

SIGN UP TODAY!

CIS LISTSERV

Our e-mail lists are back! There are now two free lists to help our sites. Previous list subscribers will need to sign up again for the new lists.

The CIS Technical Support Mailing List (orcis-support) delivers information and answers questions about CIS software and CIS-related hardware, including installation, updates, midyear releases, and other technical issues that can affect your site’s use of CIS.

The CIS Services Mailing List (orcis-service) provides information and ideas on CIS software use to students and clients, including best practices, training and conference opportunities, and other services and products of interest to CIS sites.

To sign up, simply point your browser to <http://cis.uoregon.edu/orcis/lists.htm> and fill out the form!

CIS FOR INTERNET

To sign up for CIS for Internet, sites will also fill out a form on the CIS web site. Instructions are provided on the CIS Installation CD. Please follow them and read the license agreement carefully.