Invest in the Development of Oregon’s Future Workforce
SPONSOR A SCHOOL’S ACCESS TO QUALITY CAREER INFORMATION

The Oregon Career Information System (CIS) increases opportunities in education and work for all Oregonians. CIS provides relevant and comprehensive information about occupations and industries, schools, and financial aid. CIS connects its users to career options and to the paths for reaching them. CIS has been a self-supporting public consortium in Oregon and national leader in this field for over 30 years. Designated as Oregon’s state career information delivery system, CIS believes that the vision of Quality Information for a Lifetime is an essential element of our education and workforce systems.

BACKGROUND: CIS is Oregon’s high quality career information delivery system. Administered by the University of Oregon, under the direction of the Oregon CIS Board, CIS has been the principal career information delivery system for K-12 education in Oregon since its inception in 1972. CIS also serves community colleges, universities, and state agencies, such as Employment, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Corrections, as well as private rehabilitation, training, and workforce development entities. In 2004, 450 sites made CIS available to over 215,000 Oregonians.

This historically self-supporting consortium is funded through user fees, with $500,000 of the $750,000 annual costs borne by public school districts. Because it is a fee-based organization, CIS must restrict usage to organizations that pay an annual license fee. Increasingly, school districts in particular are finding that budgetary restrictions necessitate cutting valued resources, including CIS. These cuts come at a time when quality career information is more important than ever due to a rapidly changing workforce and Oregon’s focus on high standards and relevance in education.

In the K-12 education system, comprehensive counseling and career development is a critical element of school improvement efforts and the cornerstone of student/parent decision-making regarding next steps after high school. Decisions relating to career choices and postsecondary education and training require that quality information is available to students. CIS, through computer delivery formats, helps students identify interests, skills, and work values and match these quickly to occupations found in Oregon and nationally, along with labor market demand, compensation, and available education and training. Educational relevance in simplest terms means drawing connections between classroom learning and one’s future, and CIS is key in helping students make these connections.

BE A SPONSOR: During this period of serious budget shortfalls in Oregon’s K-12 education system, please consider sponsoring CIS for a school.

The annual cost of supporting one school ranges from $265 to $2,765, depending upon school size.

SUPPORT: EQUITY: Students in the sponsored schools will have access to CIS products, regardless of their school’s ability to pay.

ACCESS: CIS information will be available to the school’s students AND parents via existing Internet delivery at home and school.

QUALITY: By supporting schools during hardship, Oregon CIS can continue its work of 30 years and Oregonians will be assured the availability of a consistent, high quality product that is researched, validated, and produced, updated and supported in Oregon with the needs of Oregonians in mind.

Every Oregon student and adult deserves an equal opportunity to benefit from quality career information. CIS is a time-tested, Oregon-grown system of the highest quality, integrity and value. Oregonians require access to these resources if Oregon is to realize our educational and workforce development goals.