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State Officials Announce: Newly Funded Cohort of Regional STEM Partnerships

Five New STEM Hubs Receive Capacity-Building Support

(Salem, OR)—Today, the Chief Education Office, in partnership with the Department of Education, announced state support for a new cohort of five STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Hubs to build capacity for regional, cross-sector partnerships. STEM Hubs are designed to drive individual and community prosperity through increasing access to hands-on learning that connects students with future career opportunities, improving math and science achievement, and increasing post-secondary STEM degrees and certificates.

The five newly funded STEM Hubs span 12 counties and join six STEM Hubs in the statewide network. The new partnerships include:

- **Southern Oregon STEM Hub** (*Klamath, Josephine and Jackson Counties*)
- **Columbia Gorge STEM Hub** (*Gilliam, Hood River, Sherman, Wasco and Wheeler Counties*)

- **Lane County STEM Hub**
- **East Multnomah County STEAM Hub** (*East Multnomah and N. Clackamas Counties*)
- **Frontier Oregon STEM Hub** (*Malheur County*)

Each Hub was awarded an average of \$100,000 to develop a local framework for sustainable partnerships and create a formalized plan through a process of community engagement that identifies STEM education needs and assets in the region.

“As a state we are committed to ensuring that learning motivates, inspires and connects students with real-world application,” said Acting Chief Education Officer Lindsey Capps. “We know that when students are engaged in their learning, and can see a connection with their future, they are more likely to graduate high school with a plan for what comes next. STEM Hubs are one vehicle where the state fosters locally-driven strategies to improve access to hand-on learning opportunities that engage students, and align with local workforce needs.”

In the 2015 Legislative session, Governor Kate Brown and the Legislature nearly doubled the investment in applied learning opportunities for students throughout the state. The Governor has recently announced a commitment to finding permanent, dedicated funding for CTE (Career Technical Education) and STEM that gives every student the opportunity for hands-on learning experiences as a top education priority.

STEM Hubs are multi-sector partnerships that link local educators, higher education, workforce and economic development partners, community-based organizations, and business/industry representatives to develop a shared vision for increasing student access to STEM and other experiential learning opportunities. Hubs often focus on educator professional development in best practices for STEM instruction, increasing in and out of school hands-on learning experiences for students, and deepening student connections to the fast-growing

STEM employment opportunities in the region and state.

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