

Lane STEM Ignites!



The Blazing Hurricanes are home safe and sound; stuffed to the gills with Creole food! The Cascade Middle School turbine team attended the National KidWind Challenge in New Orleans and placed sixth out of 26.

The team had a slight mishap in the wind tunnel when the dowel broke on one of the blades and went shooting out like a whirligig bullet! Even with this mishap, the turbine still produced a whopping 60.5 Joules of energy! The competition was fierce with the winning team producing 86.3 joules (which is crazy good for a middle school team).

The competition not only included turbine performance in both slow and fast wind tunnels, but students were required to take a test on wind energy, turbines and

environmental issues. They spoke with wind professionals, such as engineers, to explain their design choices and completed a timed on-the-spot challenge creating a vehicle that could travel solely powered by wind.

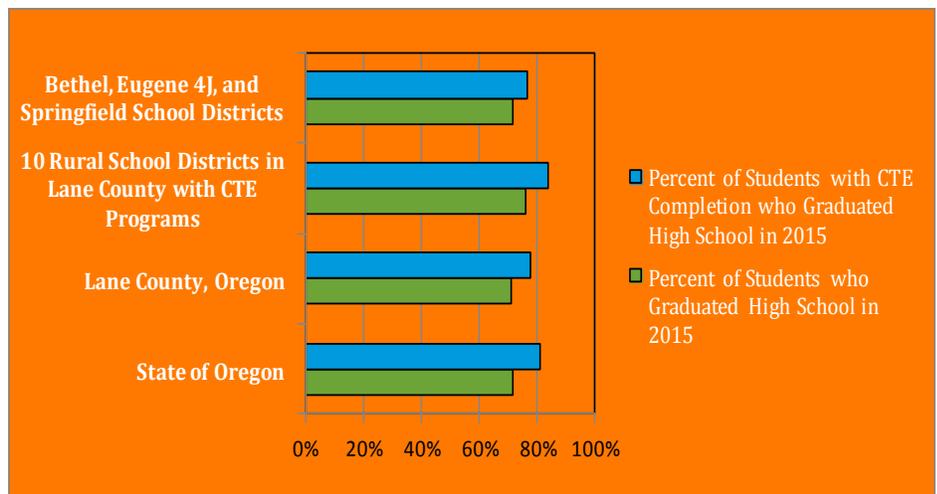
We are really proud of our team's representation of Cascade Middle School, the Bethel School District, and Lane County. The team was also featured on the New Orleans news found here: <http://wgno.com/2016/05/24/kids-find-the-answer-blowing-in-the-wind-at-new-orleans-wind-convention/>. If you want to learn more about the Blazing Hurricanes, follow them on Instagram under the name 'blazinghurricanes.' And if you're interested in learning more about Lane STEM, please visit www.stem.lane.edu

Director's Message

I love the quote from Thomas Jefferson that states, "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." We are making great progress toward identifying our key strategies for the 2016-2017 school year, and I can't wait to highlight the incredible work in our upcoming newsletters.

This month, we are collaborating with Lane Workforce Partnership, Chamber of Commerce, and all K12 districts in Lane County to visually highlight CTE success and project industry jobs. Our steering committee is also continuing to have thoughtful conversations about building our programs and initiatives utilizing an equity lens that ensures cultural appropriateness.

We have an exciting summer ahead and I'm grateful to have you join us in this important work.



Building Bridges

Our College and Career bridge group is working hard to identify ways to increase collaboration across the county to strengthen our advising and college access programs for high school students. In 2015, Senate Bill 418 was passed requiring the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to create a workgroup to identify methods to increase successful student transitions from K12 education to postsecondary opportunities. One of the recommendations from this group includes a distribution of one time funds to support local collaboration.



Recently, we convened representatives from Connected Lane County College and Career bridge group, Reach Higher Oregon, the Lane County Superintendents' Council, and the OSAC supported Career and College Collaborative to identify shared outcomes and prioritize the strategies that will help us to align our efforts to achieve the greatest impact. Our community-wide approach will be further developed this July at the Reach Higher summer summit.

Committee Member Corner

Connected Lane County has evolved and is now poised to fulfill its stated promise, "Through the work of our partnership, we promise to create pathways for all students to enter kindergarten ready to learn and for all students to access higher education, so that the next generation will have success in their lives and help our community thrive."



Colt Gill

From its beginnings a few years ago as the *Education Partnership*, under the visionary leadership of LCC President Mary Spilde - through its time as *College Ready Lane County* - and finally today as the state recognized regional achievement collaborative Connected Lane County; our partnership has recognized the power of our collaborative to:

- Share information in new ways,
- Increase systemic cooperation, and
- Support Lane County students in their education transitions by
 - o identifying shared strengths, issues, and concerns among our institutions,
 - o addressing barriers to equity and accessibility for all students,
 - o exploring opportunities for cooperation between institutions, and
 - o discovering shared resources that will benefit the missions of all partners.

Today, under dynamic leadership and the renewed commitment of all, our birth to college and career partners we are poised to come together in a powerful alignment that holds the promise of success for Lane County kids. We are focused with an updated mission and logic model. We have direction and resources in place for our bridge groups. And, our commitment to equity and access is shifting from one of hope to one of action through the development of specific goals. Connected Lane County is poised to succeed for students and serve as statewide demonstration for working across silos.

On June 1st, Colt Gill will be taking on the role of Oregon's Education Innovation Officer, and we look forward to his continued guidance and insight.

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