Lane STEM and Connected Lane County have supported teachers during a busy summer of training and planning for the 2017-2018 school year. Educators from across the county participated in Elevate Lane County industry externships, while others became Science Ambassadors through the Lane Science Project training. In total, teachers participated in over 2400 hours of professional experience this summer, made possible by the Oregon Department of Education.

Eleven educators participated in the first pilot of Elevate Lane County’s summer externship experience with 12 local tech companies. These teachers will utilize their new knowledge of the local tech sector to craft computer science-based lessons and curriculum for ten different high schools across eight school districts. A career pathway guide will be developed by Thurston High School counselor Amy Straineri, based on over 100 interviews of local tech employees, to be shared with high school counselors county-wide.

Fifteen Lane County science teachers participated in Lane STEM’s Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) facilitator training at Lane ESD in August. The Oregon Science Project was adapted by Springfield STEM TOSA Dara Brennan and teacher trainer Nick Spicher in order to create a county-wide team of Science Ambassadors who will provide support to Kindergarten through fifth grade teachers across the county. In addition to the in-person training, the Lane County Science Ambassadors will complete a series of online modules and participate in an online professional learning community throughout 2017-2018.

Lane STEM also supported the purchase of curriculum and scientific data collection materials to support a first-year Environmental Science College Now Course for high school students at Crow Middle & High School. Working in partnership with Lane Community College, high school juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to earn free college credits (8 units) for one year of Environmental Science coursework taught by instructor Heidi Rebar.

As part of the environmental science course, students will conduct authentic science research, contribute data collections to a worldwide database for scientists and students to analyze, discuss local and global issues and current scientific research related to environmental science, and learn about college and careers in environmental science. To begin implementing the program, Crow will collaborate with College Now environmental science teachers at Churchill and South Eugene High Schools.
ELEVATE LANE COUNTY PARTNERS WITH CAREER & TECH EDUCATION (CTE) FOR MANUFACTURING DAY

High school juniors and seniors from across the county will have the opportunity to attend one of four Experience Oregon Manufacturing tours on October 6, 2017. One set of tours will take students through wood manufacturing companies, such as the Seneca family of companies, and on the other, students will have the opportunity to explore the local food production industry, visiting Euphoria Chocolate Company or Snowtemp. The event is being supported by Oregon Manufacturing Extension Partnership (OMEP), as well as both the Eugene and Springfield Chambers of Commerce, and is the first of its kind in Lane County. Manufacturing Day is an annual event that takes place on the first Friday of October in celebration of modern manufacturing.

For more information on Experience Oregon Manufacturing, contact Pete Lauf, [plauf@lesd.k12.or.us].

PRESCHOOL PROMISE, KIDS IN TRANSITION TO SCHOOL, & SUMMER READING
Spotlight on South Lane School District’s Busy Summer

Preschool Promise completed its first year this August, serving 175 children in variety of preschool sites across the county. The Preschool Promise program is focused on providing professional development opportunities for teachers and classroom aides. In total, Preschool Promise teachers and classroom aides completed 1794 hours of early childhood trainings in addition to their time spent in the classroom.

Another ELA program, Kids In Transition to School (KITS), helps kids get ready for kindergarten by giving them classroom and social skills, while also giving parents an environment to learn new ways to support their kids from kindergarten to graduation in school and at home. This year KITS added a new site and over a hundred new families, growing to 470 Lane county students.

With amazing collaboration among key family support providers, South Lane School District hosted four KITS classes at two sites. They also hosted a Migrant Education Program Summer School, and weekly story & activity time for early second language learners and their families at the Cottage Grove Public Library. The Family Resource Center coordinated the expansion of three additional Summer Reading Spots. SLSD elementary schools partnered with the Cottage Grove public library to launch a reading incentives program, and the 90X30 South Lane Regional Leadership Team began preparing for distributing their first round of Welcome Baby Boxes. It was a very busy summer in South Lane!

For more about the any of South Lane’s programs, contact Jackie Lester [jackie.lester@slane.k12.or.us].

LANE COUNTY CAREER EXPLORATION
FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 8-9

Connected Lane County is hosting a county-wide Career Expo at the Lane County Fairgrounds on October 12th. The event will encourage young students to begin exploring the kinds of careers available in a variety growing Lane County industries. Over 50 companies are expected to participate from across the county, with nearly 3,000 students in attendance. Students will have the opportunity to listen to industry skills panels as well as engage in mock interviews during the morning or afternoon session.

Any local businesses interested in participating should send an email to info@connectedlanecounty.org.