



OREGON
MENTORS



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Greetings,

Spring is here and that means different things for every mentoring program. School-based programs are winding down, and some community-based programs are gearing up... Whatever your program is doing, we hope you're having a successful year.

Each year Oregon Mentors collects data from our registered programs. As the state mentoring partnership, we are the organization in the best position to capture a comprehensive picture about the services and needs of Oregon's youth mentoring programs. We use this basic aggregated information to help us plan and prioritize our services to programs, and to report to organizations like MENTOR, the national partnership, about what is happening in Oregon's mentoring community.

This year, we are moving this process to our Web site, to simplify data collection - your yearly updates will become your annual registration -- eligibility for Oregon Mentors services. Be sure and read the specifics about the annual data changes in the news section below.

It's such a pleasure to work with you. Thanks for the great work you do, day in and day out.

Warm Regards,
Carolyn, Celeste, Christina, Elia and Kim

NEWS

Oregon Mentors Training Initiative

Do you wish your program had a bigger budget for training? Are high-quality trainings hard to find? Oregon Mentors wants to help with both problems. We'll be using a portion of the money we received at the 2007 Luncheon for a training initiative, to be launched this fall.

Oregon Mentors is providing scholarships to trainings... between \$50 to \$250 to every Oregon Mentors registered program. The funds your program receives can be used to sign up any staff or volunteer for any training, consultation fee, or network fee through *Technical Assistance for Community Services* (TACS). To learn more about TACS, visit them at www.tacs.org.

The amount of money a program is eligible for is based on several factors, including: submission of annual data, following minimum best practice standards, etc.

Stay tuned for more information about this summer.

Oregon Mentors Welcomes Kim Bradford, Southern Oregon Manager

Many of you may have already met Kim Bradford when she was our interim Southern Oregon manager. Last month she accepted the position for the long haul. Kim brings great energy and enthusiasm to her role as well as experience in volunteer recruiting, marketing and communications. We're really happy to have her on our team. If you haven't met Kim, feel free to contact her at kim@oregonmentors.org or call her at 541/ 282-6223.

Annual Data Update

As we mentioned in the welcome letter above, we're moving our annual data collection to our Web site this year. Registered programs will be asked to submit data from their program's previous year.

Process:

1. In the middle of May we'll send each program an email with a link to the Web form and specific instructions and deadlines.
2. Each program will fill out the data and hit submit (most questions will be information you track regularly through your program and should be readily accessible to you.)
3. Each program's annual data report will be stored in its password-protected area of Oregon Mentors site (still being built). Each program will have access to their reports in Excel format.
4. At the end of September the Web form will be inactivated. Any program that failed to provide data will be ineligible for Oregon Mentors services through that calendar year (i.e. volunteer program referrals, TACS money, Team ODEN related activities, scholarships, etc.)

Note: only aggregate data will be provided to the public.

Oregon Mentors Conference and Luncheon Committees Seek Input

Oregon Mentors' [Provider Council](#) is currently planning a spring 2009 mentoring conference, and Oregon Mentors is also currently planning our 2008 Luncheon Awards. If you have a few hours a month, or ideas on how to improve either the Luncheon or Conference, please contact Oregon Mentors and get involved on our planning committees! info@oregonmentors.org

Applications Due! Summer Institute on Youth Mentoring

This summer, Portland State University will host its Second Annual Institute on Youth Mentoring. [Research fellows](#) include Jean Grossman, Michael Karcher, Laurie Powers, Bernadette Sanchez and Tom Keller. Guest speakers include Belle Liang and Marcelo Diversi.

To encourage an active exchange among professional peers and with researchers, the Summer Institute seminar is limited to 25 participants from mentoring programs across the United States and internationally. Ideal participants have had several years of experience in the field of youth development and are seeking an advanced level of professional development. They are experienced professionals who hold positions enabling them to influence the training and supervision of staff, the development of program models, and the implementation of service delivery changes based on the latest advances in the field (e.g., executive directors, program directors). Tuition for the week-long seminar is \$725. Scholarships are available from both Portland State University and Oregon Mentors.

Applications are due May 2. For more information and to apply, please go to: <http://www.youthmentoring.ssw.pdx.edu/>

Evening Summer Institute Reception (Save the Date)

If your program is unable to attend the Summer Institute on Youth Mentoring, consider attending the reception and panel presentation on the evening of Monday, July 28, 2008. Mentoring professionals and other interested members of the local community are invited to attend a panel discussion and reception featuring the research fellows. The event is free to the public. More details available soon.

SMART Restructures, Moves to Volunteer Positions

Since inception, the nonprofit SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) has provided one-on-one literacy support and new books to more than 100,000 Oregon children. It has served an average of 10,000 children annually for the past five years, but current studies suggest there are more than 50,000 children that could benefit from SMART's services.

To realize its vision of an Oregon where every child can read, SMART recently restructured by transitioning part-time paid coordinator positions to volunteer positions starting this fall, among other changes. SMART leadership believes the move will help ensure long-term sustainability, and enable SMART to reach more children in need of support. Terry Shanley, SMART CEO's says this change "will allow us to reach five times the number of kids without significant increases in our operating budget."

SMART began with volunteers in the coordinator role. Coordinators are responsible for working with participating schools to schedule reading sessions with adult volunteers and students, and providing on-site program coordination during scheduled reading sessions. Several coordinators have indicated they will stay. To ensure program quality is sustained, any newly appointed coordinators will go through the same rigorous interviewing and training process as current coordinators.

Visit SMART online at www.getsmartoregon.org or call 877-598-4633.

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TRAININGS & EVENTS

Guidance for working with School Age Youth - Salem, OR

April 29, 2008. 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Cost is \$15 per person.

Overview: Tough challenges with school age youth? Need advice on how to handle unique situations? In this workshop we will examine the influences on school age behavior and how to promote skill development, support positive relationships and responsive guidance. For more information, view

www.oregonmentors.org/calendar.

Mentoring Summit -- Portland, OR

On May 15th, Oregon Mentors and the Portland Business Alliance co-host an Executive Director Summit for organizations with mentoring programs in the Portland Metro Area. More information is available on our website, or email Carolyn@oregonmentors.org.

Making Connections -- online training

Feeling a little burnt out? Need a break from volunteer training? Don't beat yourself up... take advantage of an online training opportunity for staff and volunteers! You've heard about it... makingconnections.ceed.pdx.edu.

Renee Spencer of Boston University's School of Social Work conducts research around what makes a successful mentoring match and why certain matches fail. She says, "A relationship building tool, like Making Connections, can help set mentors up for success and help combat the issue of the more than 40% of mentoring relationships that do not meet their initial time commitment."

In November you received scholarships for your staff to use Making Connections at no cost, and for volunteers to use it at a drastically reduced price. Those scholarships are still valid. If you have questions, call or email Celeste. Using Making Connections is a great way to reduce your workload while giving your volunteers and staff a valuable tool they can use over and over again.

"I found Making Connections to be informative, supportive, rejuvenating, and inspiring. It helped me to connect with others and extend my vision beyond my own experience." - Laura Modena, Teacher/Advocate at Open Meadow Alternative Schools.

In the future, Innovation Partnership (the nonprofit that built Making Connections) will be sending out a survey to get your feedback on Making Connections. If you register for Making Connections and complete the survey, your name will be entered in a drawing to win free Starbucks gift card.

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Anne A. Berni Foundation - Proposal deadline: May 15 - Application Available Now. Provides funding to projects that benefit the welfare of children. Request applications from US Bank, Marlyn Norquist, (503) 275-5929.

Samuel S. Johnson Foundation - Proposal deadline: May 15 - Guidelines posted at: <http://www.foundationdatabook.com/Images/johnson.pdf>. Contact: Elizabeth Hill Johnson, (541) 548-8104, mary@tssjf.org.

Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation - Proposal deadline: May 31 - Contact: Barbara Hall, (503) 973-0286 for proposal requirements.

Braemar Charitable Trust - Proposal deadline: June 1 - for Central Oregon Region find grant guideline information at www.trustmanagementservices.net. (Deadlines for Mid-Valley region is Feb. 15; Deadlines for Portland Metro region is Aug. 15)

D.E. & Jane Clark Foundation - Baker County - Proposal deadline: June 1 - Supporting Baker County. Applications are available through Baker City branch of U.S. Bank. Contact: Bill Dolan, (503) 275-5929.

Robert D. & Marcia H Randall Charitable Trust - Pre-application deadline: June 15 - Application now available. Contact: Marcia Randall, (503) 293-6210.

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