

OREGON PROGRAM EVALUATORS NETWORK [OPEN]

Last updated September 23, 2006

Networking Information on Evaluation Activities in Oregon and the Northwest.

Originally prepared as a resource for the American Evaluation Association “Evaluation 2006” Annual Conference

This information was originally compiled by the Oregon Program Evaluators Network [OPEN] in cooperation with the American Evaluation Association [AEA] to help “Evaluation 2006” Conference Participants to network with their professional colleagues in Portland and the West Coast. All of the entries have been cleared by the respective organizations. Where requested clearance has not yet been received an entry is not included. OPEN will continue to update the information as clearances are obtained and more information becomes available.

1. Consulting firms involved in evaluation

As part of its national directory, the AEA website lists more than 50 consulting firms on the West Coast who have at least one AEA member on their staff and who conduct evaluations. The directory gives the location, number of staff, areas of focus, website (if there is one) and names of AEA members on their staff. The directory is searchable by state.

Source: www.eval.org Go to “Find an Evaluator”.

The AEA website includes links for firms wishing to add their names or to edit the existing listing.

2. Volunteer and not-for-profit organizations

This section lists sources for locating volunteer and not-for-profit organizations in the Portland area. Some of these agencies also operate throughout Oregon or the Northwest. While most volunteer and not-for-profit organizations report on their activities, not all have evaluators on their staff.

A. TACS (Technical Assistance for Community Services). This Portland-based organization provides technical support and training to non-profits. It offers the following services:

- Consulting support to non-profits in strategic planning, organizational development, financial management, cultural competency and other elements of nonprofit management
- Customized training and public workshops and clinics
- “NPower Oregon” Program of TACS helps nonprofits improve their use of technology
- Interim Nonprofit Executive placements and executive searches
- Peer networking through professional workshops
- Promoting peer networking through professional networks.
- Nonprofit telephone and e-mail helpline
- Sponsorship of OregonInvolved, a new online resources that makes it easy for Oregonians to connect with nonprofits making a difference in every community [www.oregoninvolved.org]
- Special assistance to small, grassroots community and faith-based nonprofit organizations that provide social services to the community
- Fiscal sponsorship emerging nonprofit organizations

The website provides links to:

- TACS support organizations
- Funding resources
- Government entities that non-profits need to know about
- Technology networks
- On-line job banks and volunteer opportunities.

Source: www.tacs.org

B. OregonInvolved: A new online resources that makes it easy for Oregonians to connect with nonprofits making a difference in every community [see also TACS].

Source: www.oregoninvolved.org.

C. VolunteerMatch for Portland and Vancouver Washington. The following information was provided for this website:

Bringing People Together

VolunteerMatch is a leader in the nonprofit world dedicated to helping everyone find a great place to volunteer. The organization offers a variety of online services to support a community of nonprofit, volunteer and business leaders committed to civic engagement. Our popular service welcomes millions of visitors a year and has become the preferred internet recruiting tool for more than 40,000 nonprofit organizations [the website lists

over 600 volunteer organizations in the Portland and Vancouver area who are looking for volunteers]. Read more in our latest annual report.

[\[2005 Annual Report | 1.1MB\]](#)

Source: <http://www.volunteermatch.org/about>

D. **CNRG** provides a resource network for engaging people in the nonprofit community. It connects people, communities and organizations, and helps individuals gain skills to act as agents of change in collaboration with others.

Source: www.cnrg-portland.org

3. Foundations and philanthropic organizations

The mission of **Philanthropy Northwest** is to promote effective philanthropy in the Northwest States, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. It provides assistance to both grantmaking organizations and to organizations applying for a grant. The website lists over 185 grantmaking members. There are also committees responsible for: public policy, corporate affinity, early childhood learning, education, and grantmakers of color. Philanthropy Northwest provides the following services to its members:

- A three-day Annual Conference and Member Meeting, investigating "big picture" issues in philanthropy.
- May Gathering: A time of fellowship and skill building as grantmakers gather training and a reception.
- Member briefings on current trends and issues
- Regional conferences, held in Seattle, and occasionally in Spokane, Portland, Anchorage, and Boise.
- Grantmaking Basics, a day-long hands-on workshop.
- Occasional conferences designed for a particular type of grantmaker, such as corporate grantmakers or family grantmakers.
- Networking with national and Northwest grantmakers through affinity groups and programs.
- Educational workshops that offer technical assistance on a variety of topics.
- A link with national peer organizations.
- Alerts and briefings on public policy action that affect grantmakers and their grantees.
- A bi-annual newsletter and monthly e-mail updates to members.
- A *Membership Directory*.
- Use of a Common Grant Application designed to streamline the grantwriting process.

Source: www.philanthropynw.org

GRANTMAKERS of Oregon and Southwest Washington is a membership association of private, public and community foundations; corporations with foundations or giving programs; and, individuals with donor advised funds. GRANTMAKERS exists to provide programs and services to funders. GRANTMAKERS has one hundred member organizations, representing about 500 individuals affiliated with a grantmaking organization in the region. Its mission is to inspire effective philanthropy.

GRANTMAKERS programs and services include:

- Monthly programs on community issues, trends or skill areas;
- Programs specific to corporate funders or small family foundations;
- Grantmaking Basics Course for new grantmakers;
- Family Philanthropy Teleconference Series;
- Resources on Good Governance;
- A two-day conference on issues;
- A network of national and regional peer organizations;
- Public policy alerts;
- Links to research reports and philanthropic resources;
- Newsletter, website and library for members.
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Source: www.gosw.org

4. Government evaluation activities

Almost all State and local government agencies in Oregon are responsible for the assessment of their programs and activities. There is no central State-level evaluation office coordinating all of these activities and the activities are organized differently in each agency. Information on the research and evaluation activities of particular agencies can be found at:

www.oregon.gov

One interesting coordinated evaluation initiative is the Oregon Progress Board. This is part of the US (and worldwide) *managing for results* initiative. Ninety (90) statewide performance benchmarks have been developed to measure progress in the areas of the economy, education, civic engagement, social support, protection (substance abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, tobacco during pregnancy), poverty, public safety, community development, and environment

Source: http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OPB/2005report/obm_list.shtml.

Each government agency is required to define goals, key performance measures, annual targets and to indicate the responsible unit or division. Annual reports are prepared by each agency:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OPB/APPR05.shtml>

The aggregate state level indicators are presented in an annual report "Is Oregon Making Progress?" - available online at

<http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OPB/docs/2005report/05BPR.pdf>

The City of Portland and several other agencies also produce their own progress reports. For information on the Portland (Multnomah County) Progress Report:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?c=27358>

Source: For general information on the Oregon Progress Board:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DAS/OPB>

5. Evaluation Offerings in Universities and Colleges in Oregon and Washington State.

The information in this section and only includes information from universities and colleges that have responded to our requests to provide or confirm information on their evaluation-related activities. The site will be updated as more information becomes available.

Evaluation Offerings in Oregon Universities and Colleges

Concordia University

2811 NE Holman Street, Portland, OR 97211

503-288-9371, 800-321-9371, www.cu-portland.edu

contact: Jan Albricht, 503.493.6236

Course: EDU 605 Evaluation of the Teaching Process is a course for administrators and teachers interested in evaluation of the teaching process.

George Fox University

414 N. Meridian Street | Newberg, OR 97132

503-538-8383, 503-538-8383, www.georgefox.edu

contact: Rhonda Bonham, 503 554 2266

Coursework: Ed.D. program preparing students for administrative positions in school districts offers a specialization in Curriculum and Instruction which includes coursework in assessment and classroom change.

Oregon State University

Corvallis, OR 97331-4501

541-737-1000, <http://oregonstate.edu/education>

Faculty includes five practicing evaluators working with the OSU Extension Service, College of Health and Human Sciences, College of Education

Department of Adult Education, and Department of Public Health. The Extension service has ongoing extensive evaluation activities.

Portland State University

PO Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751

503-725-4697, 503-725-4619, 800-547-8887, www.ed.pdx.edu

contact: Melissa, 503-724-4754

Courses in Public Administration include evaluation. The Educational Policy and Foundations and Administration Department also lists an evaluation course which has not been offered in the past few years.

University of Oregon

Eugene, OR 97403

541-346-5171, 541-346-1000, www.uoregon.edu

contact: Phil McCullum, 541-346-0804, pmccullu@uoregon.edu

In Educational Leadership, a D.Ed. program includes evaluation coursework, and an administrative licensure program embeds personnel evaluation. In Special Education, there is a 2-part sequence of evaluation courses.

Evaluation Offerings in Washington Universities and Colleges

Washington State University

Main campus: Pullman, WA 99164-2114, www.wsu.edu

contact: Mike Trevisan, director, 509-335-7063

Assessment and Evaluation Center, created in 1997, provides assessment and evaluation services to school districts, state agencies, and other social service organizations and hands-on experience for graduate students.

Vancouver campus: 14204 NE Salmon Creek Ave., Vancouver, WA 98686-9600

contact: Linda Mabry, 360-546-9428

An evaluation and assessment specialization in Ed.M. master's program is being developed.

Social and Economic Sciences Research Center

contact: John Tarnai, executive director, Pullman, 509-335-3840

SESRC supports social science research at Washington State University and responds to the policy needs of public agencies and others in Washington State and the nation. Data collected, predominantly survey data, is sometimes used for evaluation purposes.

contact: Dave Pavelchek, Puget Sound office, 360-586-4583

This SESRC office do data collection, management, and analysis for quantitative and qualitative analyses of programs and services.

contact: Paul Stern, Vancouver office, 206-528-4622

Vancouver office will open Fall 2006 in the WSU Extension Services building.

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