

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS:

Sue Hildick
President
Chalkboard Project
hildick@chalkboardproject.org
503-542-4325

Aimee Craig
Communications Manager
Chalkboard Project
craig@chalkboardproject.org
503-542-4325



OREGON CLASS DISTRICTS GRANTED \$13.2 MILLION IN FEDERAL DOLLARS Teacher Incentive Fund provides for the implementation of career and compensation reforms

PORTLAND-September 23, 2010- A consortium of seven Oregon districts was informed today that it will be granted a total of \$13.2 million dollars from the federal Teacher Incentive Fund to locally design and implement career and compensation reforms.

Each district is participating in the CLASS Project, an initiative that provides school districts with a framework to integrate expanded career paths, effective performance evaluations, relevant professional development and new compensation models. CLASS is an initiative of the Chalkboard Project, an independent, non-profit organization working to strengthen education in Oregon.

“In the four years since the development of the CLASS Project we have seen outstanding results both in terms of student achievement and in the degree to which teachers feel engaged in their own continued learning and in school improvement efforts. The US Department of Education recognizes the importance of supporting effective teaching and we believe we have a model that works,” said Sue Hildick, Chalkboard Project President.

The full TIF grant will provide funding for five years. Today, the districts were awarded the first two years of funding with the rest of the funding contingent on congressional action.

Each of the seven districts will spend a year planning during which time they will make such decisions as: how to take multiple measures of student achievement into account as one part of a meaningful evaluation; how to recognize and reward effective teaching; how to provide leadership opportunities for educators; and how to integrate their efforts to best serve students.

The participating districts are: Albany, Bend- La Pine, Crook County, Lebanon, Oregon City, Redmond, and Salem-Keizer.

"The TIF funds will allow Bend-La Pine to continue our focus on excellence and to become an example for the state and the country of how to have tough, meaningful conversations about

teaching and learning. We plan to implement reforms that honor effective teachers for their work, create a culture of continuous improvement, and ensure that we are serving all students to the best of our ability," said Ron Wilkinson, Bend- La Pine School District Superintendent.

More information about the CLASS Project can be found at www.educators4reform.org.

About the Chalkboard Project

Launched in 2004, the Chalkboard Project is a non-profit, non-partisan organization working to unite Oregonians to make our K-12 public schools among the nation's best. Through research, public engagement, implementing promising practice and advocating for state-level reforms we aim to help strengthen Oregon's schools and move them into the top ten in the nation. Chalkboard is the first initiative of Foundations for a Better Oregon, a consortium of six leading Oregon foundations: Meyer Memorial Trust, The Oregon Community Foundation, The Collins Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation, JELD-WEN Foundation, and The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation. www.chalkboardproject.org @ChalkTalkers