



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT**

Mary Beth Horton  
503.646.0242 x33

## **Business Education Compact Receives Funding to Transform Technology**

BEAVERTON, OREGON— Thanks to a generous award by the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the Business Education Compact (BEC) will dramatically expand its capacity to serve students, teachers and businesses while greatly improving staff productivity. With the \$215,000 award, the BEC will culminate a comprehensive technology transformation initiative begun in 2008.

Complementing a Microsoft software award of \$156,000, the Trust monies will transition the BEC to a Microsoft platform with new workstations and servers, customer relationship management software, a new accounting system and the expert implementation support to effect the transition. The new technology overcomes the structural limitations of today's platform and provides the systems adaptability and flexibility to meet BEC needs into the foreseeable future.

"The demands on BEC systems have been steadily growing with its expanding programs," said Tamra Busch-Johnsen, BEC Executive Director. "The Trust's investment in BEC's infrastructure is a strong validation of our work in connecting education and business and establishes the critical technology foundation for a vital future."

Since 1984 the BEC has been changing the educational landscape with programs valued by students, teachers and businesses across Oregon:

- Teacher Development Initiative. Measurably improving student achievement and ensuring that every student earns a high school diploma that is a meaningful predictor of post-secondary success.
- National Engineers Month. Outreach to tens of thousands of K-12 students each February to generate excitement for a world of career opportunities that math and science skills make possible.
- Internships. In-depth, paid workplace experiences for high school and college students that make learning relevant and prepare them for workplace success.

The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust was created by the will of the late Melvin J. (Jack) Murdock who was a co-founder of Tektronix, Inc. of Beaverton, Oregon, and a resident of Vancouver, Washington. The Trust's mission is to enrich the quality of life in the Pacific Northwest by providing grants to organizations that seek to strengthen the region's educational and cultural base in creative and sustainable ways. Jack Murdock practiced philanthropy through his own private foundation that existed until the Murdock Trust was formed.

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