



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Business Education Compact kicks off National Engineers Month February 1st

BEAVERTON, Ore. – Jan. 30, 2006 – Scores of professional engineers will engage 20,000 students in 600 classrooms in the Portland Metro area, as a result of connections made through the Business Education Compact (BEC) in celebration of National Engineers Month.

BEC's efforts to "make learning real" by connecting businesses and schools for National Engineers Month reflects Oregon's growing economic cluster needs, interest and demand for a highly-skilled future workforce. The key is to get kids excited about studying math, science and technology.

"We're thrilled that Oregon company participation in BEC's program has more than doubled this year," said Mary Beth Horton, BEC's deputy director. "When businesses and schools come together, students benefit, and the BEC continues to increase that critical link."

This year, students from kindergarten to high school will participate in hands-on applications of advanced math and science skills. Engineers from partnering organizations will demonstrate a vast range of engineering career opportunities, including manufacturing, environmental sciences and high technology.

Teacher interest has increased by 30 percent this year, reflecting a trend toward supporting math and science exploration with real-life learning opportunities.

This year's company participants include: Intel, AMEC Earth & Environmental, Gunderson, IBM, Mentor Graphics, PCC Structurals, Port of Portland, Portland General Electric, Portland State University College of Engineering, RadiSys, TriQuint Semiconductor and Xerox.

National Engineers Month sponsoring companies include: The Daily Journal of Commerce, First Tech Credit Union, NW Natural and Portland Community College.

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ABOUT BEC

Throughout its 21-year history, the BEC has been making learning real by connecting the classroom and workplace through innovative, hands-on experiences such as student and teacher internships; helping students realize how studying science, math and technology can translate into exciting career opportunities; forging education and business partnerships and advocating for quality education in Oregon. Learn more about the BEC at www.becpdx.org.

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