



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**BUSINESS EDUCATION COMPACT GROWS NATIONAL ENGINEERS MONTH
IN ITS 13th CONSECUTIVE YEAR**

BEAVERTON, Ore. – Jan. 22 – The Business Education Compact (BEC) is leading Oregon’s outreach efforts during National Engineers Month (NEM) this February 2007 for the 13th consecutive year.

BEC has nearly doubled the number of participating Oregon organizations this year to 30. Since NEM was launched in 1995, the BEC estimates that 4,000 engineers have visited 7,000 classrooms, reaching 200,000 K-12 students. These engineers from diverse disciplines stimulate interest in applied engineering through presentations and hands-on experiments. In doing so, they promote interest in science, math and technology that lay the foundation for future engineering careers.

BEC’s efforts to “make learning real” by connecting businesses and schools for National Engineers Month reflects Oregon’s growing economic cluster needs, interests and demand for a highly-skilled future workforce.

In cooperation with partners such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), which has nearly 4,000 local chapter members, BEC connects professional volunteer engineers with schools, teachers and classrooms around the state, increasing awareness and understanding of how this indispensable occupation combines creativity and know how to solve real world problems. By connecting remote schools via interactive video conferencing, made possible by Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), BEC aims to reach as many students as possible, giving them the opportunity to interact with professional engineers.

“National Engineers Month contributes not only to the education and motivation of Oregon students but also invests in the future workforce that is critical to Oregon’s future,” says Tamra Busch-Johnsen, executive director of BEC.

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Organizations partnering with the BEC on National Engineers Month include AMEC Earth & Environmental, Inc., Cascade Microtech, Columbia Sportswear Company, Comcast, Clackamas County, ESCO Corporation, Freightliner LLC, Gunderson Inc., IBM, Intel Corporation, Mentor Graphics, Merix Corporation, Monaco Coach, PCC Structural, Port of Portland, Portland General Electric, Portland State University, RadiSys Corporation, Schnitzer Steel Industries, TriMet, TriQuint Semiconductor, United Parcel Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Welch Allyn, Inc., WRG Design Inc. and Xerox Corporation. Sponsors include Daily Journal of Commerce, First Tech Credit Union, NW Natural and Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

ABOUT BEC

Throughout its 23-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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