



NEWS

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SAO AND BEC PARTNER TO SUPPORT OREGON'S FUTURE WORKFORCE

PORTLAND, Ore. – Feb. 23, 2006 – The Software Association of Oregon (SAO) and the Business Education Compact (BEC) today announced a strategic partnership to create SEED: seeding the future workforce.

SEED, the SAO-BEC partnership, announced its plan at a meeting of business and education leaders, public officials as well as media representatives.

This announcement follows the recent Oregon Business Summit, in which the SAO identified the need to focus on educating and training Oregon's future workforce as key to their industry's competitiveness. SAO is acting on those recommendations to promote internships as an integral solution to workforce needs and partnered with BEC's mission to "*make learning real.*"

SEED will work with schools, universities and Oregon's software and technology companies to place 120 students and 12 educators into real-world, internship environments in 2006 to learn how companies do business in Oregon. It will also serve as an opportunity for educators to learn how to teach technology to students at all levels of education.

SAO's board chair and WebTrends president and CEO, Greg Drew, announced his company's commitment to provide internships in the areas of engineering and marketing

“WebTrends is excited to open its doors to Oregon students and educators wanting to gain practical experience in our industry and business,” said Drew. “We hope other companies will join us in providing workforce training opportunities.”

“This SAO-BEC partnership is a great example of the Oregon Business Plan in action,” said Duncan Wyse, President, Oregon Business Council.

Intel Corp. was the first Oregon company to partner with the BEC, providing more than 2,000 internships since 1993.

Student Excellence Award

The first Student Intern Excellence Award was presented to Brian Nelson for his quality contributions at Intel.

About the Business Education Compact

BEC strives to “make learning real” by connecting the classroom and workplace with hands-on, innovative learning experiences for students and teachers, forging education and business partnerships and advocating for quality education in Oregon. BEC serves Oregon and SW Washington. Learn more about the BEC at www.becpdx.org or call Deputy Director Mary Beth Horton at 503.646.0242 x33.

About the SAO

Formed in 1989, the SAO fosters an environment that fuels the growth of Oregon's software industry. SAO is dedicated to helping software dependent companies Start and Grow, and to developing an environment into which companies and entrepreneurs want to Move. SAO offers a diverse range of software and business development resources, networking, visibility, education, advocacy and member benefits in support of Oregon's software industry cluster.