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Powin Corporation is a 20 year old company with a proven track record of manufacturing and marketing a variety of products on a global scale. However, Powin Energy is a new division barely 2 years old. We consider ourselves a startup division and operate much the way small startup companies usually do. We are developing products that have the potential to transform our lives in the way we consume and manage energy. To do this, we have a few highly experienced technical visionaries that have the insight to give us direction, but we need a small army of highly skilled engineers to implement the ideas and bring them to the market place. Our resources for undertaking these tasks are usually quite limited. This is typical in a startup environment. The bottom line is this...we simply can't afford to pay top dollar for experienced engineers. We had to find another innovative way to find the talent we needed to build our new division. I'd like to tell you about our solution and how well it has worked for us.

On July 2, 2012, Powin Energy entered a strategic partnership with Oregon Tech. We provided battery testing equipment to Oregon Tech's Wilsonville Campus, for use by students and faculty of the Renewable Energy Engineering program, and initiated a student internship program.

Since July, I have met some amazing Oregon Tech students with strong engineering fundamental skills. After hiring 3 of these students as interns, we treated them as experienced engineers and observed them rise quickly to the expectations we placed on them. Today, these interns have become permanent employees who are functioning as project managers and skilled developers while they finish their degrees.

My central point is this. Powin Energy has benefited greatly from our partnership with Oregon Tech. We could not do what we set out to do without this unique access to the talent pool being cultivated and nurtured in our local universities. Furthermore, this partnership would not have been nearly as beneficial if the interns we brought in had not been so well endowed with technical and leadership skills. The case with Powin Energy is not unique. Access to a highly skilled talent pool of young and hungry engineers, who are willing to make the required sacrifices in a start-up environment, is vital to the system whereby innovative ideas are brought to the market place. Accordingly, I urge you to increase the Oregon University System budget to demonstrate your commitment to jobs and economic development in Oregon. Thank you.