

To: Oregon House Education Committee
From: Linda Samek, Dean of the School of Education, George Fox University
Date: March 18, 2013
Re: HB 3233, Network 4.5

As a long time Oregon educator, Dean of a School of Education, and member of a number of advocacy groups for PK-12 education in the state, I want to convey to you that I am very pleased with the current version of the Network plan. It has clearly identified targets for improving Oregon education without getting into the specific mire of "where" or "who." I think it opens opportunities for many voices through many lenses to come around a table, discuss, dig, wrestle, and implement initiatives that will benefit our children, their teachers and administrators, and our schools.

I agree with the designers that we are way beyond needing more pilot projects. We need to take those that have already proven successful, scale them up, and model for the state what can be done. School districts, ESDs, professional organizations, and education preparation programs from higher education, among others, have spent time, energy, and money over the years to improve Oregon education in small initiatives and isolated pockets. We know how to enhance what we do, but we have not found ways to make excellent projects scalable across the state.

I believe this network could be the vehicle for broad-based change in Oregon education. Please consider supporting the Network in the interest of our students and educators.

Let the real work begin!!