

Poverty → (TO) Prosperity

February 10, 2014

Testimony from Riley Hill and Dirk DeBoer Malheur County Businessmen

Our intention was to testify in person however, we determined driving through the "Winter Blast" from Malheur County in Eastern Oregon was not a prudent business risk.

We have moved beyond the buzz words of "collaboration, collective impact, cooperation," and have gone directly to action. The Malheur County Poverty to Prosperity (P2P) Five Point Plan is community-based and employer driven. The Career Technical Education is a critical cog on our wheel of prosperity. It is our intention to intercept our kids before they enter the juvenile or welfare system.

Today, we want to emphasize the positive impact House Bill 3231, "Youth and You" funding allocation plan will have on the youth of Malheur County. This bill clearly outlines the return on investment (ROI) for Oregon. It addresses the needs of "Opportunity Youth and Priority Youth" two populations that define one reason for Malheur County's perpetuation of poverty.

It has been an education for us as business leaders having planning sessions with those we non-educators call affectionately "Dr. Who, Dr. Know and Dr. Love." It is their culture to think about college and higher education. 95% of the conversation (even in our meetings) was about college. However, the Governor's 40 40 20 plan is only 40% about college. The only way we will keep the kids out of the system is by changing our thinking. House Bill 3231 does this.

Malheur's P2P are putting a deal together that will make our youth employable. We hope they will continue on to higher education but that is not our primary focus. As one Superintendent pointed out "lots and lots of kids are just plodding along, they do not have a plan and their family never had a plan." We are creating an opportunity for our kids to have a plan, and skills so they have a future. When a young person finishes their career path of choice through the CTE they will walk out with a skill set that employers want. That is a significant ROI.

We have gone to local employers to find out what skills our youth need to be employable. We are creating an educational path that is flexible to meet the business communities' needs now and into the future.

Our pilot CTE welding course began fall 2013, this success has led the way to add an Allied Health certification course to start fall 2014. Additional CTE career certification courses are in development. We know the youth who select a CTE career will be successful.

Initially, we understand that we may export our employable kids - if we have to so what - that is way better than them being a drain on the juvenile or welfare system. The challenge we face is sustainability. Funding for Career Technical Education is woefully inadequate. We look to our legislators to assist us in remedying this growing problem.

The school districts of Ontario, Nyssa and Vale, the Malheur Education Service District and Treasure Valley Community College, are working together to create a future for the youth of Malheur County. Their expertise, guidance and belief is critical to the success of Malheur County's Prosperity Initiative.

We owe it to these kids and to our community to give them hope for the future. The industry needs these kids to compete in the world market.

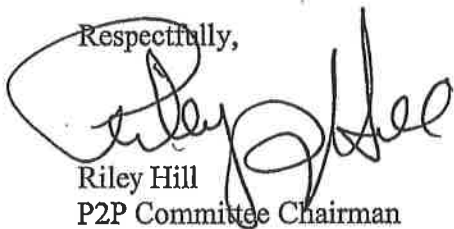
Together, we can create opportunities for youth most likely to drop-out of school and work to keep them engaged.

Funding for CTE training will transform our community by giving at-risk and underserved youth job skills and keep them in school to graduation.

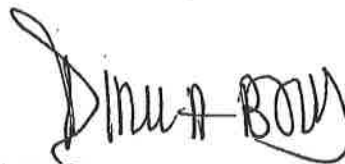
We are not here asking for a handout. Instead, we're asking for you to join us in investing in real solutions to change the course for youth in our community.

This is a non-political issue for Malheur County. This is about saving our children from a life poverty. We support House Bill 3231 "Youth & You" Funding Allocation Plan.

Respectfully,



Riley Hill
P2P Committee Chairman



Dirk DeBoer
P2P CTE Action Committee Chairman

Poverty → TO Prosperity

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION CENTER — MALHEUR COUNTY

→ CHANGING OUR COURSE

With a poverty rate at 22.6% compared to Oregon's 14.8%, Malheur County is one of the poorest, most disadvantaged counties in the state. High school graduation rates averaging below 70% in our region.



A leading cause of poverty is our failure to train our children for jobs. With little to no Career & Technical (CTE) Training, we have not positioned our youth to be competitive.

Additional career and technical training will be critical to insuring our ability to quickly meet to the area's workforce needs and help us drive the economic recovery of our region. Training students for future jobs is the key to reducing destructive social and economic trends facing Malheur County youth. This is especially true for those students, who through Oregon's Equity Lens, are considered at-risk, underperforming or under-represented. We are proud to have been designated an Oregon Solutions project in October 2013 by Governor Kitzhaber and to share this vision with First Lady Cylvia Hayes' statewide poverty reduction efforts.

→ INVESTING IN SOLUTIONS

The goal is to construct a CTE Training Education Center on existing Treasure Valley Community College property, to initially offer:

- Allied Health programs,
- Welding/Fabrication, and
- Business Technology
- Diesel and Automotive Mechanics

The cost to run programs is estimated at \$1.3 to \$1.5 million annually, with construction costs close to \$12 million.

→ BEYOND THE HURDLES

The start-up costs to create a sustainable early Career & Technical Education program has previously proved to be an insurmountable barrier for local school districts and the community college who continually grapple with providing services despite declining funding and increased state requirements.

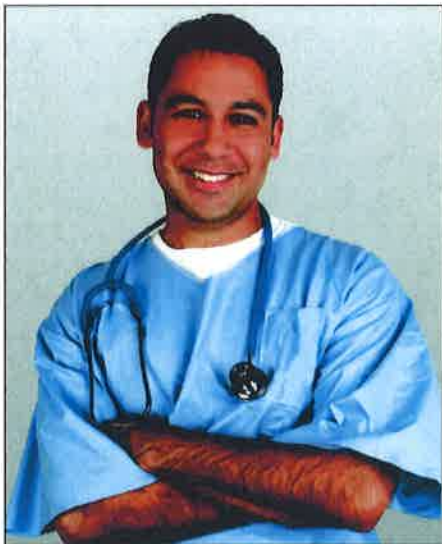
The first step in building support for the CTE project included establishing welding pilot program at Treasure Valley Community College. Through a collaboration with the school districts of Nyssa, Ontario and Vale, Malheur Education Service District, TVCC, a two-year welding training program began in fall 2013. The initial pilot included twenty local high school juniors (10 from Ontario, 5 from Vale and 5 from Nyssa). Students come to TVCC three days a week for three hours of welding instruction and lab activities. The instruction will culminate in completion of a one-year welding pathway certificate.

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→ ALIGNED WITH REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

The CTE project is one spoke in a five-part overarching effort of the “Poverty to Prosperity: Malheur County Recovery Plan (P2P)”, a grassroots initiative launched by a cross sector group of committed citizens and organizations. The CTE Action Committee focused on implementing a Career Technical Education (CTE) program to give students in the three local school districts (Ontario, Vale and Nyssa) opportunities for good jobs in their local area.



While initial actions have been focused on developing the welding and allied health CTE programs, the CTE Committee believes the diverse, cross sector representatives on the committee, as well as our additional focused projects described below, show a clear understanding and awareness of the need to coordinate efforts along the entire P-20 continuum throughout the region:

Frontier Access to College Credit Program (FACC)

The Frontier Access to College Credit (FACC) program is a collaborative between Treasure Valley Community College, Oregon Community Foundation, Malheur ESD, and 7 school districts in **three counties**. Funding was provided by TVCC, Malheur ESD, and a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation. The primary goal of the program is to increase the availability of college credit in small frontier school districts, and directly impact the number of students graduating high school with nine or more credits. This program is in its inaugural year, and once implemented fully after three years, we hope to have 50% of graduating seniors in those districts reaching the college credit metric. The credits, offered through TVCC free of charge, are attained in business and computer class through the 2 plus 2 program.

Southeast Oregon Professional Development Plan

The Southeast Oregon Professional Development Plan is a collaborative P-20 professional development plan offered to the entire state with the understanding that primary utilization will be from **Malheur, Harney, Grant, and Baker counties**. This professional development plan consists of the Malheur Summer Institute along with two synchronized professional development days throughout the school year. The professional development offered covers the entire P-20 spectrum; inclusive of early learning service providers, social welfare entities, homeless advocates, K-12 educators, and college credit programs. Emphasis is placed on P-3rd Grade professional development and the high school/post-secondary transition grades of 11-14. Project funding comes from the Malheur ESD Local Service Plan, Malheur County School Districts’ Title IIA money, sustainability funds from the Oregon Data Project, and regional support funds from the Oregon Department of Education.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACTION COMMITTEE

- Convener - Dirk DeBoer, owner – DeBoer Farm – 541-212-9036
- Riley Hill, Businessman – 541-250-9113
- Dana Young, President – Treasure Valley Community College
- Steve Phillips, Superintendent, Malheur Education Service District
- Janine Weeks, Superintendent – Nyssa School District
- Matthew Hawley, Superintendent – Vale School District
- Nicole Albisu, Superintendent – Ontario School District
- Abby Lee, Public Information Director, TVCC
- Wendy Hill, District Manager – District 14 Department of Human Services
- Cathy Yasuda, Executive Director, TVCC Foundation
- Kelly Poe, Community Based Services Director – Malheur Education Service District