



BEC Proficiency-based Teaching & Learning Initiative Community Endorsements

"I am sharing my enthusiastic support for the Business Education Compact as the strongest and most suitable partner to help advance proficiency in our schools. As the Director of High Schools for one of Oregon's largest school districts, I have appreciated having the BEC's strong leadership role in advocating for proficiency-based teaching and learning. I cannot underscore enough how important their work has been in helping us move toward full-scale implementation of proficiency in Salem-Keizer. From the beginning of our district's journey with proficiency, the BEC has been consistently providing us with much needed training, resources, coaching, and ongoing support. They have identified the early implementers, the innovators, and the strong leaders around the state, and invited them to share their practices with other educators ranging from large-scale conferences to 1:1 coaching. It is this ability to deliver at all levels that distinguishes the BEC as the front-runner in Oregon to help lead Oregon's effort to implement proficiency in all of our schools."

Kelly Carlisle, Director of Secondary Education-High Schools, Salem-Keizer Public Schools

"I have served on the BEC Board of Directors and the Executive Committee for over 15 years as Assistant Executive Director for the Oregon Education Association and now in my role of education faculty at Marylhurst University. I have seen the development of BEC's professional development program to assist teachers in learning proficiency based teaching strategies.

The BEC engaged teacher leaders in the work of creating strategies and then continually improved the process for delivery of the professional development in order to maximize student learning. BEC listened to teachers and administrators as they grew the program and worked to meet the needs of all their clients.

From my perspective, BEC is the leader in the state for providing the professional development and ongoing support to help educators be successful with proficiency based teaching and learning. They have expanded their outreach and are now also considered national experts on the subject with other states seeking their expertise."

Courtney Vanderstek, Education Faculty, Marylhurst University

"The BEC is Oregon's most knowledgeable and effective advocate for proficiency-based education and they are leading implementation throughout the state. Through their expert teacher coaches and teacher-led trainings, they provide outstanding on-going support to teachers and administrators seeking to implement proficiency-based education with integrity and sustainability."

Randy Hitz, Dean Graduate School of Education, Portland State University

"The Business Education Compact has a long and successful history of supporting the development and implementation of proficiency based teaching and learning in Oregon schools. The breadth and depth of this experience is truly impressive. So, too, is their commitment to meeting the needs of underserved students and communities through sustained reform efforts that reach the level of classroom practice.

As a BEC board member, I have considerable experience working with the organization's staff, reviewing programming, and hearing directly from practitioners in the field about the impact of this work. I know that the BEC will bring bold ideas for change to this effort, a deep understanding of how schools work, and a passion for the success of all students."

Scott Fletcher, Dean, Graduate School of Education and Counseling, Lewis & Clark College

"[BEC's] steady focus on quality teaching, including reliance on the breakthrough idea of classroom assessment FOR student learning, have put them in the forefront statewide and nationally as leaders in the creation of professional development programs that set teachers and school leaders up for success. Their common sense approach to the development of local capacity and district-wide implementation have been and will continue to be productive contributions to the Oregon education environment.

But at a more personal/ professional level, I have watched over the years as Executive Director, Tamra Busch-Johnsen, and her deputy, Mary Beth Horton, along with Diane Smith, their Director of Teaching & Learning, have built BEC into one of Oregon's most outstanding education service providers. They have become leaders at so many levels. Given their history of success, I can recommend them without reservation as a potentially powerful contributor to the state's Proficiency-Based Teaching and Learning Program. Please feel free to contact me for further details if you wish."

Richard J. Stiggins, Ph.D., Assessment Training Institute (rickstiggins@gmail.com),

"I have worked for several years with BEC both as a high school principal and a superintendent, member of their Board and member of their Executive Board. They have provided amazing support for my schools in my efforts to implement PBTL.

BEC's PBTL mission is to provide expert high quality training and support to as many school districts at as many grade levels in Oregon as possible. While doing so it has serviced many outlying regions of the state. . .

I believe that the BEC model for PBTL model for training and support for teachers is one of the strongest if not the strongest I have ever been lucky enough to experience."

Stephen Jupe, Superintendent, Scappoose School District

"Our past experience working with the Business Education Compact inspires confidence that all aspects of their preparation, delivery and interpersonal interactions deliver the highest-quality and most up-to-date strategies for designing and implementing standards-based content from the district-level to the classroom-level. Collaborating with a learning from Diane Smith's administrative experience, background research and state and national involvement in the proficiency conversation as well as the teacher-coaches who have bloomed under her care and training, is a much-needed opportunity for our regional educators."

Eric Volger, Director of Instructional Services, InterMountain Education Service District

"The James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation has funded the Business Education Compact (BEC) since July of 2003. Our mission is to support efforts which lift and strengthen student achievement. Teachers who employ proficiency-based methods create environments in which students are motivated to learn and have better academic outcomes.

As you consider moving proficiency-based efforts to scale in our state, we encourage you to work closely with BEC. Their staff is composed of nationally recognized and skilled facilitators and trainers with deep knowledge and experience in proficiency-based teaching and learning. BEC maintains high quality standards and consistently delivers in its commitment to educators . . .

BEC strives to provide educators throughout the state with the training they desire, particularly those working with under-served populations. BEC is acquainted with the challenges teachers face in our classrooms. Their program is designed to meet the needs of teachers "where they live." BEC's training is rigorous and aligned with national definitions of proficiency/ competency education."

Martha Richards, Executive Director, James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation

“Having led the proficiency movement in Oregon since 2005, BEC is exceptionally well prepared to more than meet the goals of this strategic initiative with deep expertise, proven leadership and strongly committed partners. It is an opportunity perfectly aligned with the mission.

As leaders in our business and education communities and members of the BEC Board, we have had many opportunities to hear the testimony of teachers, students and administrators who have experienced first-hand the power of proficiency to significantly improve student achievement outcomes. The Board has been unwavering in our support of BEC leadership in growing proficiency across the state—in the goal to have every student in every classroom in every school learn in a proficiency environment.”

Jim Maestretti, Cambia Health Solutions, Inc. (BEC Board member, previous Board Chair)

“The Standard is a long-time supporter of the Business Education Compact, both in financial support and in board membership and leadership. . . Along with businesses across the state, we have a vested interest in ensuring our students receive the best education in the country; they are, after all, our workforce of the future. BEC has taken the lead in articulating best practices in proficiency-based teaching and learning. Based on the outcomes we’ve seen from both individual teachers and entire school districts, they have proven themselves the established experts in the state. They have a keen understanding of the highly systemic nature of ensuring teacher practices are actually able to have the desired impact; their approach ensure that best practices are implemented at the classroom teacher level, as well as supported at the school and district level via a supportive administration, a strong peer network, and a stable of proven tools.

As a business leader, I support BEC’s proficiency-based teaching and learning methods in large part because it aligns very well with the expectations of our workforce. The level of student empowerment and support for initiative in the classroom that’s an outcome of BEC’s practices is exactly the kind of empowerment and initiative we are looking for from our current and future workforce. They also give me confidence that success students have in gaining knowledge and skills taught in the classroom are not a product of jumping through hoops of how many assignments they turn in or how well they behave in a classroom, but are a product of actually demonstrating what they know and can demonstrate a direct application of this knowledge.”

Cari Bacon Flick, Second Vice President, The Standard

“We share a commitment [with BEC] to excellence and improved outcomes in Oregon’s K-12 public schools. We also share an appreciation that teachers have the most significant impact on student learning in the classroom. The focus that BEC has placed on the proficiency-based training is enabling teachers to create a better classroom experience and improve the success of Oregon’s K-12 students. We look forward to further learning and understanding how proficiency-based instructional practices can assist in meeting the Governor’s 40/40/20 vision to dramatically expand educational achievement and we agree that emphasis on professional development and training of our classroom educators will be an important ingredient for success along this path.”

Sue Hildick, President, Chalkboard Project

“OBC keenly advocates the 40-40-20 vision and the redesign initiatives of the Oregon Education Investment Board. One of the initiatives we embrace in particular is proficiency-based teaching and learning, which has the power to transform the student learning experience and student outcomes.

The BEC is a recognized pioneer in advocating proficiency practice and is highly experienced and successful in helping Oregon Educators develop rigorous and consistent approaches to proficiency practice. BEC’s track record and capability in this important aspect of professional development is unmatched.”

Duncan Wyse, Present, Oregon Business Council

"The International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) believes competency-based [education] is key for transforming learning for each and every student to achieve excellence and equity for preparing our students for their future with the knowledge and skills to be successful in today's global economy. . . . By ensuring mastery and demonstrating proficiency through performance, the education system will be transformed to demand increased achievement and focus on student learning outcomes toward graduation, not how much time a student has spent in a classroom seat. Learning, not time, becomes the centerpiece of a proficiency-based system. . . .

The BEC forms highly collaborative partnerships with business and education to provide teachers and administrators the instruments and resources needed for developing proficiency education and offers high-quality professional development. In our July 2011 report, *Cracking the Code: Synchronizing Policy and Practice for Performance-Based Learning*, iNACOL cited Oregon as a State Policy Exemplar for Advanced Competency-Based Policy and noted the best practices of the Business Education Compact for providing service and support to teachers and administrators in developing proficiency-based teaching and learning."

Susan D. Patrick, President & CEO, International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL)

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"In my 18 years in education I know of no other system or concept that has made more dramatic changes in education than that of Credit for Proficiency. In my opinion, without the BEC's involvement in the staff development and vision of the proficiency concept, the best practices that proficiency requires would be left to isolated islands of excellence within the teaching community.

What the BEC has been able to accomplish is absolutely amazing. I truly believe that teacher morale, professionalism, curriculum choices, instructional strategies, and assessment practices have all been dramatically impacted by their efforts. In fact, I will go as far to say that our educational system would still be stuck in neutral if it had not been for the concept of Credit for Proficiency and the leadership of the BEC.

The BEC is the absolute leader in the area of Proficiency Based Teaching and Learning, and have in fact trained thousands of teachers and countless administrators through gold standard staff development workshops and activities. The BEC, through Diane Smith, is thoroughly connected throughout the state and now the nation as she leads, what I would say, is the most important movement in education in my 18 years in education. The concepts of proficiency are so fundamental to the best practices in education, especially in reaching our low achievers. I would be worried if the BEC was not able to continue to lead the work they have already begun. The BEC is seen among educators as the leaders in this area and looked upon by us to provide the vision and the resources needed to move our schools forward."

Randy Dalton, Principal, Molalla High School
