

December 11, 2018

EOWB Director's Report

Greetings

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to attend the last meeting of EOWB for 2018. My hope is that you, your family and friends enjoyed a festive Thanksgiving and that you are looking forward to a joyous Christmas season.

Although the Board has not met since July, the staff has been busy with many Workforce issues.

Before I get into the details, allow me to bring you up to date on a couple lingering items. The last time I wrote the Workforce Boards and the State leadership team had agreed to terms concerning the MOU/IFA's that did satisfy the Department of Justice's requirements. With this agreement the timeline was that we would have consensus on the method we would use to determine costs at One Stop Centers throughout the state by December 31, 2018 and have the plan completely implemented by June 30, 2019. Yes there have been many meetings and discussions. But to this point there has not been any decisions. With that all said, I will suggest that work will be done in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter so it can be put to practice in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter and solidified by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Or, it will be recommended for each Board to choose their own method and move forward. If the latter is true, all the work Sheri did last spring may not be in vane after all, because we still are of the belief that FTE's are the most equitable way to determine cost.

When we last met we had a discussion on the findings around the Board assessment that was developed for EOWB. Except for having the asset mapping completed I feel we are in a good position to move forward with a few changes in 2019.

Shortly after our last meeting I attended the Pacific Northwest Economic Region Summit in Spokane. This organization brings Elected Officials, Business leaders, Economic and Workforce professionals together from Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and British Columbia to discuss issues and listen to experts pertaining to our expanded region. A great couple days with much information. I would attend next year's summit if it weren't in the Yukon Territory. Congrats to Debbie Radie who presented on the future of workforce in Food Processing. The "Made in Eastern Oregon" videos to my surprise were featured in one presentation.

In August I spent an afternoon and early evening in Harney County, first meeting and then touring around Burns and Hines with Forrest Keady before meeting with Commissioner Dorroh. We then attended the economic development group gathering where we listened to 30 -35 enthusiastic participants discuss projects they were working on.

In making an attempt to kick start the Health Care sector I met with Bob Houser, CEO of Pioneer Memorial Hospital in Heppner to glean information about their needs. This led to a meeting with the CEO's or their delegate of eight of the nine regional hospitals. Our goal with this ongoing dialogue and with the help of these leaders is to bring a larger group together in the spring. EOWB is also in close contact with a group that is working with two Universities who have an interest in bringing education opportunities in the health care industry to our area.

Because of the Governor's initiative of "Get Oregon Ready" I attended a meeting (with the State Workforce team) of Food Processors from Boardman to listen to their needs to make their industry more successful.

I was chosen to sit on the Governor's Adult Attainment Workgroup with a group task of recommending an age spread and time frame to develop career opportunities for unemployed individuals. More to come as these recommendations take shape.

I attended a Workforce summit with EOWB Board members in Hermiston to gather information from others that will better help us all work together when projects arise.

In late September, Oregon Workforce Partners presented the "Workforce Working Together conference" in Eugene. This 1st annual day and a half event was attended by over 240 people. I was pleased with the participation from our area and have heard nothing but good comments about the contents. Next year's conference is already in the works.

With the help of our Providers and due to Brenda's grant writing skills EOWB was awarded by the State a Strategic Innovation Grant. This grant will allow our Providers to put on classes that will help individuals prepare to take and receive their GED certificate. We hope to see the funds soon to begin the classes. Thanks to Brenda, Denise, Eric and Lynn for getting this approved.

Treasure Valley Community College received funds to redesign and remodel their CTE buildings to better serve future programs. I was fortunate to attend one of their planning sessions to see what the plans look like. Congrats to TVCC, I am excited to see the finished product.

We have been looking for funds to create a series of videos that the Advanced Manufacturer's Partnership felt would entice individuals who are looking for career opportunities in particular fields, to move forward with education requirements to secure jobs in their chosen field. Although we haven't found that funding as of this writing. We are presently working with GO – STEM to piggyback with them on a funding source through the Oregon Community Fund, to help defray part of the cost.

You will hear on Tuesday from Sheri who will talk on not only the finances but also on the recently completed Audit. At our next meeting you will hear from the head of the Audit team on the results. The Audit can be found on of website at [www.eowb.org](http://www.eowb.org)

I attended a meeting with all the Umatilla Chamber of Commerce Director's as we discussed the "Creating a Sustainable Work-Based Learning Ecology in Eastern Oregon" that was produced by Susan Bower and Christina van der Kamp of Eastern Oregon Business Source. At the gathering we also heard testimony of success stories of how this is working in other areas of the state.

Recently, I spent a few hours in Eugene attending the Association of Oregon Counties annual Conference where Oregon Workforce Partnership presented programs on what Workforce Boards are mandated to do by WIOA and how different states perform the requirements. For a while I felt sorry for the fact that I spent more time in the car getting there and returning than I did in Eugene. But then I was reminded of the travel schedule of a woman who traveled from Florida to speak. She arrived in Eugene at 11:30 the night before and was on her return flight back by 12:30 pm!

Please welcome Connie Green, Interim President of BMCC to the Board, although her time in Eastern Oregon if schedules are kept will be short, she brings a great deal of talent and experience with her appointment.

I am sorry to say good-bye to two Board members who have been instrumental in any success EOWB and the Manufacturing Partnership has achieved are leaving the Board. Debbie Radie, of Boardman Foods will continue her work on the State Workforce Board and many other groups. Steve Lyon, long time HR Manager for Boise Cascade has assumed the same role for the Grande Ronde Hospital in La Grande and has decided he needs the time to settle in to the new job. I personally want to thank them for all their efforts and congratulate them on making a difference.

Earlier we asked many of you to let us know if you would like to continue on the Board. To those that responded, thank you. To those who are still deciding please let us know as soon as possible. We really do appreciate all your time and efforts to make EOWB successful

As always please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

I look forward to being with you on Tuesday!  
Bill