



Serving Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow,  
Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties

## Director's Report 4-16-19

Welcome to spring... if the old adage of April showers bring May flowers applies, they should be plentiful! The other old adage suggests that the longer one keeps the grass in your yard the greener it will stay is true then my lawn will be green for a long time. My guess is I will have to mow on the high setting at least five times before it looks as if it has been mowed.

At our February gathering we learned of the Construction Combine in Ontario that EOWB helped with as a sponsor. We looked at this as a model of a good program that possibly could be replicated in another city in our area. In witnessing the project I had the ability to meet with many of the organizers. My conversation with Scott Stephens of Idaho State University, who developed the concept, revealed that it was out of necessity and the need contractors had in Pocatello. With Home Depot's assistance ISU is putting seven on throughout Idaho in 2019. It was a successful project and one that could be replicated in other cities in our area. With not only employers and job seekers benefitting but veterans too.

In May, ODOT's Career Day will take place in Baker City. With an estimated 350 students participating it should help students determine if what is being offered could be a Career path for them.

We have been informed that Go Stem of Eastern Oregon received their grant funding through Oregon Community Fund. Now work can get started to fulfill a goal of the Advanced Manufacturer's to produce more videos and telling the story.

EOWB was approached to help fund students attending Med-Quest 2019. Med-Quest is a week long program at EOU that introduces high school students to



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aspects of the medical field. 39 students were accepted to attend from all eight counties, of those 19 from 5 different counties were struggling to pay the entire \$400.00 fee. The Executive Team voted to assist with \$2750. In funding.

The Health Care sector is moving forward with a very productive meeting with hospital administration staff and higher education staff. EOWB in concert with three other Workforce Boards is working to identify apprentice needs and certification needs in areas of hospitals. We have recently learned that the State, realizing that all nine workforce Boards have health care as a strategy has once again contracted with Francie Genz to help facilitate meetings.

Please remember that EOWB is offering to assist high School CTE Instructors or Counselors in the area that would like to attend the Oregon Promise Externships at the Port of Morrow in June to contact us.

With the announcement by the Executive Team to accept proposals for up to the total dollar amount of \$48,000 in county funding, the interest level has risen. Please have your proposals in our office by the 19<sup>th</sup>. I will suggest that Chairwoman Susie will be looking for volunteers to review and make recommendations for these requests.

Incumbent Worker Training dollars are available. If you are aware of companies who would like to take advantage of this opportunity please ask them to contact Eric at TEC or Denise at CAPECO.

On the Board agenda, is the review and possible approval of the recommendation of the evaluation committee for the service provider contract/s (RFP'S).

The HECC has contracted with Thomas P. Miller and Associates to provide Asset Mapping for the EOWB area. Part of the strategy is to bring potential partners together to assist in development of the map. Meeting will be held in Pendleton on April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00pm. In Baker City on April 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to



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11:00am and in Ontario on the same day from 2:00 to 4:00pm (MDT). You or anyone you know that may benefit from this exercise are invited to attend.

This being the last quarter of the fiscal year and the biennium we are receiving requests from state agencies to finalize programs and projects to be in line with WIOA Rules and Policies. To that end, we will once again tackle the IFA (Infrastructure and Facility Agreements) question once again.

Recently, we were informed that all WDB's (Workforce Development Boards) will be recertified. This is actually a Jobs Council assignment but wanted to let you know.

I hope to see you Tuesday the 16th, if not in person, at least on the video or hear your voice on the phone. As we have some important issues to discuss and vote on we hope you can join us to assure a quorum. The Service Providers have until the 12<sup>th</sup> to have all their expenditures posted Sheri will work to get the quarterly reports for the third quarter to you Monday at some time.

Thank you for your service to EOWB

When you have an opportunity please thank Brenda, Farideh and Sheri for all they do in keeping everything more forward ...

Bill