

AN UPDATE ON SOME ACTIVITIES OCCURRING IN THE P-20 ARENA . . .

The Portland State University (PSU) Graduate School of Education and the Leaders Roundtable (LRT) collaborated over the summer to submit a proposal to [Living Cities](#) in partnership with the [Coalition of Urban Serving Universities \(USU\)](#) to create a P-20* partnership, utilizing the Leaders Roundtable as a vehicle to launch a Multnomah County P-20 initiative. Several of our members signed on in a letter of support.

Living Cities has identified a model P-20 partnership based at the University of Cincinnati called [STRIVE](#). Up to five demonstration sites are being sought from among USU member institutions, of which PSU is one, to develop P-20 partnerships utilizing the STRIVE model. STRIVE's goals are: **students are prepared for school; they succeed academically; they and their families are provided support; they enter post-secondary** (although this is broadly defined to include job training, apprenticeship, etc, there is a pretty strong emphasis on college with which I do not disagree); **and they graduate and move into the workforce and careers.**

Our joint proposal made the first cut (and it is currently in redraft so it is not attached but if you want to see the final proposal let me know). Randy Hitz, Dean of the Graduate School of Education at PSU, Bob McKean, Superintendent of the Centennial School District, and I traveled recently to Cincinnati (on their dollar) for a workshop designed to help applicants improve their proposals. A total of nine USU sites were represented, ours was the only group from the NW. The workshop conveners were impressed with the proposal, in particular that there is an existing vehicle that might be utilized which has an expressed and demonstrated commitment to the goals, and a strong university commitment. PSU President Wiewel is very supportive of this effort and is seeking ways to more strongly engage PSU with the LRT, community colleges, and the schools.

I came away quite inspired by the workshop, convinced that we have made a lot of headway via the LRT in convening the group of needed stakeholders and having important conversations about educational success; with added strategic focus that this opportunity could provide, we could make a great alignment leap forward, capitalizing on some of the new leadership that includes the president of PSU, Portland Mayor-Elect Sam Adams who has made a commitment to reduce the dropout rate, and Marc Levy, new leader at the United Way of the Columbia Willamette; and capitalizing on the many efforts that are already underway in our community to address the goals of a P-20 initiative

We are resubmitting our proposal, **sites will be notified in mid December** if they are selected for a site visit, and **site visits will occur in January**. IF WE ARE SELECTED FOR A SITE VISIT, IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO HAVE SOME CONVERSATION IN ADVANCE WITH LRT MEMBERS AND OTHERS. The LRT membership will need to decide if it wants to take this on; it may require re-examining our current mission and membership.

While the financial support is quite modest, the alignment opportunity for us locally is huge. We would receive on-site technical assistance, data reporting, coaching in the development, management and sustainability of the partnership, and more important, an opportunity to become part of a national network. There is a commitment on behalf of the funder to build on existing work within the community and to be committed to an evidenced based approach. Success will be defined as "The development of a partnership that leverages the power of cross sector partnership and research on proven local programs and practices to drive improved student outcomes across the education continuum from birth through career." Higher Education must play a leadership role, indeed one of the goals of the new sites is to demonstrate the critical role that higher education plays in such partnerships.

I will keep you posted. If you have any immediate thoughts, observations, or questions, please send them along. If we are notified of a site visit, I will be in touch with you to arrange for a briefing.

*What is P-20? An integrated, aligned education continuum from pre-school to graduate school. In a P-20 system, education partner's work together to improve links between interdependent parts of the system, especially transition points such as that between high school and college. Another way to describe it: ensuring that a seamless education system from pre-school to grad-school is preparing our young people for the demands of the 21st Century.

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