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Northwest Regional Education Service District receives multimillion dollar grant to support educators

Hillsboro – On Aug. 23, the Oregon Department of Education awarded Northwest Regional Education Service District a multimillion dollar grant to provide professional development for teachers at every phase of their careers.

NWRESD was one of 10 educational entities to be selected for this Educator Advancement Council funding. The initial award provides initial startup funding to launch and operate a regional professional learning network to be followed by an annual award of more than \$2 million to fund network activities.

The [Educator Advancement Council](#) was created by the Oregon Legislature in 2017 to ensure Oregon’s classrooms are staffed with high-quality, well-supported and culturally responsive educators.

The professional development provided with this funding aims to improve recruitment pathways, training programs and support for new teachers. It will also expand opportunities for professional and leadership development for current educators and administrators. There are nearly 6,000 educators working within NWRESD’s region, which covers Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties.

“The vision is to create improvement networks that facilitate deep, meaningful and ongoing learning opportunities for educators across our region toward improving outcomes for our students,” says NWRESD Superintendent Dan Goldman. “I’m confident that this incredible opportunity to leverage the collective expertise across our 20 school districts, the region’s post-secondary institutions and the diverse communities we serve will positively impact the quality of teaching and levels of learning occurring in our schools.”

The first step of the project will establish a Coordinating Body with thirteen representatives from preK-12 education, higher education, culturally specific community-based organizations and tribal representatives. The Coordinating Body will be responsible for identifying areas of need and professional development priorities at school district and regional levels. NWRESD has prioritized cultural, racial, geographic and professional diversity on this decision-making

team consisting of more than 50% classroom teachers, nearly 50% people of color and 30% people who are bilingual from all four counties in the NWRESD region.

NWRESD is well-versed in leading professional learning networks and is already facilitating five such networks for educators. These groups focus on [early high school success, school culture and climate, early learning, diverse educator pathways and reconnecting students and families to schools](#).

“These Educator Advancement Council funds provide an opportunity for our region to greatly expand the reach and impact of our professional learning efforts,” says NWRESD Executive Director of Instructional Services Johnna Timmes. “By working closely with our districts and the diverse educators we serve, we can elevate educator voice, address areas of local need, promote educational equity and better support teachers and administrators across our region. We are excited to begin this work.”

Northwest Regional Education Service District [is the largest](#) of Oregon’s 19 education service districts. It serves 20 school districts in Clatsop, Columbia, Tillamook and Washington counties. These school districts serve nearly 104,000 students. Through state funding, contracts, and private and public grants, the agency provides a wide range of special education and specialized services to students in the region. Depending on need, children receive services from birth to age 21. Services include early intervention and early childhood special education; K-12 special education; instructional and school improvement programs for students, educators, child care providers and community members; outdoor school; dual-credit, GED and online educational options; and technology, administrative and business services.

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