

Profiles of leadership Series

By Deputy Superintendent Ed Dennis

It is too easy sometimes to forget that there are real people behind the policies here at ODE. We have assembled a terrific leadership team, and I wanted to take a bit of space here to tell you about the remarkable individuals who are working day in and day out to improve Oregon's schools and students.



Asst. Supt. Brian Reeder

Brian Reeder prides himself on what he calls "hard-nosed, objective analysis" in his job as assistant superintendent in the Office of Analysis and Reporting. One of only a handful of people in our state who can be regarded as an authority in the vast complexities of the State's school funding system, Brian spends most of his time crunching numbers and providing policy guidance.

Yet he never loses sight of the fact that what he does impacts the lives of hundreds of thousands of Oregon schoolchildren. And that perspective shows in the attitude and intensity he brings to his work day in and day out at ODE.

"I don't work with students

directly," he says," but I am motivated by success for Oregon's kids."

A trained economist with a master's degree in public policy from Harvard, Brian has been with ODE for nearly 10 years, helping to launch the Database Initiative Project, which helped make school finances more understandable and accessible, and

before that worked with the Department of Revenue for a decade. He is also the primary staff person for the Quality Education Commission.

As much as he may be a numbers guy, Brian is grounded in the real world. "It's one thing to have a great idea, and it's another to get that idea implemented," he says. "Ultimately, it's about getting the right things done for kids."

Webinar Features Oregon Data Project

The Oregon DATA Project was the subject of a national web-based seminar on Oct. 1st. Mickey Garrison, the DATA Project's training director, hosted the session, which consisted of a PowerPoint presentation, a demonstration of the project's online video training, and a question-and-answer period.

The Oregon DATA Project is funded through the SLDS grant program. Oregon is the only state using a statewide professional development component to advance its data system, and the project design has sparked inquiries from across the country. The webinar was taped for easy on-demand viewing and can be accessed at: <https://ccsso.webex.com/ccsso/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=E C&rID=35545337&rKey=fbcc5e7fdbce2cc8>

In other DATA Project news, a round of professional development sessions for technical teams kicks off this month with a session at Malheur ESD on Oct. 20, followed by eight more over the following three weeks. The workshops, designed for two-person teams from each district, provide a model to help ensure the accuracy of data. For more information, including registration fliers and a short video explaining the training, visit <http://www.oregondataport.org>.