

Oregon DATA Project Launches Training

The first stage of professional development training offered through the Oregon DATA Project has officially launched. In mid-August, nearly 40 administrative and school improvement staff from the Roseburg School District—a 100% attendance rate—met for the first session of a three-strand training program.

Strand 1, "Creating a DATA culture," helps administrative teams learn how data can be used to improve student learning. The session provides the tools and strategies needed for building and nurturing a data culture in districts and schools.

In Roseburg, participants assessed the state of the "data culture" within the district; discussed data-related strategies to increase student learning; and set specific goals to measure the effectiveness of the strategies. Participants are already hard at work implementing the strategies discussed at the training.

"Roseburg's response to the Strand 1 sessions was outstanding. People were enthusiastic and eager to learn," says session leader Mickey Garrison, School Improvement Director for the Education Enterprise Steering Committee. "It really validates what we've been hearing from the field in terms of what they need to use data more effectively."

The Strand 1 training is currently being rolled out to other ESDs throughout the state. Training for Strand 2, "Using data to improve learning in districts and schools," begins in October, and Strand 3 sessions, "Using data to improve learning in the classroom," begins in February 2009.

The Oregon DATA Project provides regional training in the use of local and state data to inform instruction and ultimately improve student achievement. The project is funded through a federal grant and leverages ESD and district expertise to deliver the training.

Informational fliers on the three training strands are available for download on the www.oregondatapoint.org site. For more information, contact your local ESD.



The Oregon Court of Appeals Could Visit Your High School

In an effort to teach students about Oregon's judicial system, the Oregon Court of Appeals judges and their staffs make visits to high schools across Oregon. The Court actually hears official oral arguments at the high schools and then meets with students and members of the community to give a "hands-on" lesson about the justice system and answer questions.

According to the website of the Oregon Court of Appeals:

"Since 1998, the Court has held oral arguments at schools, universities and local courts in 37 different cities. A panel of three judges and a staff person work with the schools and local courts to schedule the trips. The judges meet with students who attend the arguments to discuss the appellate process and the Court's work. Often, students are able to read the briefs in the cases and discuss them in class before the Court arrives; the Court works to choose cases that involve local parties and lawyers and present issues that would interest the students."

Information on the program can be found [online](#):

If you would like further information, please contact [Jill Howell](#) at 503-986-5678.