Oregon State Board of Higher Education

Oregon BEST
Catalytic Funding Request
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History

- Recognition of sustainability opportunity
- Academic Excellence and Economic Development Working Group
  - Identify and gain support for 2-5 economic development initiatives that build on academic excellence and promote economic development
Oregon Inc. Process: Commercialization Subcommittee

- Tasked with identifying possible new signature research centers
- 14 pre-proposals submitted to Commercialization sub-committee for consideration
The “Sustainability” Proposals to Commercialization Sub-committee

- Green Building and Green Development Research Center
- Bio-based Research Center
- Clean Energy Center
- Center for Sustainable Systems and Innovation
Overview: BEST Center

Capabilities in Oregon Universities

Core Competencies in Sustainability (“Signature Research”)

Technology Platforms (Application Centers)

Industries/Markets

Horticulture

Forest Products Engineering

Green Chemistry

Urban Planning

Sustainable Agricultural Practices

Bio-Economy & Sustainable Technologies (BEST)

Green Building

Biobased Products

Clean Energy

Technology Platforms Con’t to evolve

Construction

Transportation

Energy

Forest Products

Food Systems

(others to be determined as market needs evolve)
2006 Michael Porter “Oregon should find ways to translate its reputation for sustainability into a key competitive advantage. A policy and regulatory framework that is both pro-business and pro-sustainability would be ‘epic.’”

2007 Daniel Esty notes Oregon’s reputation and in particular opportunities in bio-fuels, green buildings and materials.
The challenge

- Focus
- Integration
- Strategic vision
Near-term (catalytic) steps

- Focus for next biennium
- Institutional design and governance needs to be carefully considered
- Strategic alliances
- Interim leadership and guidance
Initial Focus

- Bio-based product processing
  - Developing bio-fuels from cellulosic materials

- Bio-based product development
  - Low toxicity adhesives, materials and surface coatings from renewable resources for green buildings and materials
  - Natural rubber products from Oregon grown plant products
  - Feedstocks and high-value compounds from bio-engineered short-rotation crops
Institutional design

- To be successful, Oregon BEST will need not only to be a leader in innovative research and development, it will need to be innovative from an institutional perspective as well.

- Catalytic funding from Meyer Memorial Trust would help us get it “right” from the beginning.
Leadership and preparation for legislative session

- Interim Advisory Committee
- Interim leadership
Building on already strong collaborative effort

- OSU, PSU, OIT, UO, Chancellor’s Office
- PNNL
- Governor’s Office
- State agencies, in particular OECDD
- Businesses
- Non-governmental organizations