

Metals Industry Consortium (MIC) Cluster Submission

- **Key Cluster Participants:** currently 56+ members, including community colleges, universities, Portland and other public schools, workforce training and development centers, non-profit organizations, OECDD, PDC, the Governor's office, the Employment Dept., the Dept. of Education, and representatives from more than 37 Oregon metals companies
- **Contact:** Michele Hicks, Metals Industry Consortium Coordinator & Madden Industrial Craftsmen, Inc., 360.260.8801, mhicks@mici.com
- **Geographic Location:** primarily in Portland Metropolitan area; projected to expand to larger Oregon and Pacific Northwest region
- **Structure:** informal bi-monthly meetings with plans to merge with an existing non-profit association. MIC currently is structured to operate through committees "staffed" by industry and public sector and education partners, including Marketing, Education, and Organization (to pursue the appropriate formal organizational structure)
- **Mission:** To create and sustain solid job opportunities in the metals industry, including workforce recruitment and training tied to metals industry careers
- **Background:** This cluster was formed in March 2005 primarily to unite metals businesses with workforce development, economic development and education partners to address workforce recruitment, retention and training needs for the metals industry in Oregon and Southwest Washington.

Oregon's Overall Business Climate

Areas to Address: Workforce development & training in manufacturing sector, stronger business/education connections, improved R&D capacity for large and small businesses

Top Core OBP Initiative Priorities

Targeted Workforce Development, Increase Return on Investment in PreK-20 Education, Improve Healthcare & Control Costs

Potential/Suggested New Initiatives: Enhance Oregon's Manufacturing Capacity

Specific Cluster Priorities

1. Develop stronger and more effective Business/K-20 education connections – especially at the middle school, high school and community college levels. These efforts include the Portland Workforce Alliance and other school relationships promoting direct industry interactions with faculty, students and administrators.
2. Streamline and improve delivery of workforce development and training services for manufacturing, especially metals industry businesses by promoting a regional coordinated approach to service access and delivery (e.g., a single point of entry for community college workforce training services) and supporting the Governor's manufacturing initiative.
3. Create a second Oregon signature research center focused on research and development and workforce training support (Manufacturing 21 Coalitions' Northwest Center for Manufacturing and Infrastructure Engineering).
4. Develop comprehensive public relations and marketing strategies to promote manufacturing as a quality industry with a strong future, including annual NW Youth Career Expo for high school and community college students and creation of an industry website for marketing purposes.