

Moderator Bios

Agnes Balassa has a 20 year career in public service and community development in Oregon and Washington, DC. Over the years, Agnes has led a variety of programs, projects and initiatives to create a more highly skilled workforce. She has worked with private, public and non-profit organizations building partnerships to increase the investment into and success of a variety of workforce development initiatives.

In her current capacity as the Director of the Enterprise for Employment and Education, Agnes oversees a \$7 million investment into workforce training programs. These investments pay off for the local community by

- Increasing the skills of at-risk youth through a Youth Opportunity System
- Helping adults in transition increase their skills and find new or better jobs through the six WorkSource Oregon Job and Career Centers
- Helping companies increase their competitiveness through a worker training grant programs, and
- Increasing the availability of and access to high tech training available to the mid-Willamette Valley through the Gateway Project

Agnes is a graduate of George Washington University, where she earned degrees in International Affairs and Program Administration. She is a volunteer for and supporter of a number of community organizations.

Lita Colligan is Workforce Policy Advisor in the Governor's Office of Education and Workforce Policy. Ms. Colligan's primary responsibilities are working with the Oregon Workforce Investment Board to advise the Governor on how to build a skilled workforce by integrating and improving education, workforce training and economic development systems around the state.

As Advisor, Lita has helped establish the Employer Workforce Training Fund and has led the Statewide Opportunity Committee of the OWIB that provided seeding funding for many capacity-building projects in the state.

Lita's current focus is implementation of the Governor's Workforce Initiative to link economic development and workforce development programs and services at the state and regional level.

Prior to working for the Governor, Colligan worked at the Portland Development Commission (PDC) as a Business Development Manager in the Economic Development Department, managing PDC's Business Retention, Marketing and Portland Ambassador Programs. Colligan also worked to build capacity and networks in the bioscience, creative services and professional services industries.

Lita is a trained mediator and has been an active volunteer in small claims court mediation, her children's schools and school foundation, and the YWCA. She likes to run, bike, and practice yoga – to balance eating lots of great dinners with friends.

Cluster Practitioners' Bios

Eileen Drake is Co-Chair of **the Metals Industry Consortium** and Vice President of Administration & Legal Affairs of PCC Structural, Inc. Eileen's areas of responsibility include Human Resources, Safety, Environmental and Legal Matters. PCC Structural, Inc. is a subsidiary of Precision Castparts Corp., a worldwide manufacturer of complex metal components and products for a wide variety of aerospace and general industrial applications headquartered in Portland, Oregon.

Prior to her work with PCC Structural, Eileen was a partner with Stoel Rives LLP. Eileen's practice concentrated in all areas of labor and employment law with special emphasis on preventive employer counseling and supervisor training. Eileen was an associate with Clark, Klein & Beaumont in Detroit, Michigan, 1979-83, with practice concentrated in labor and employment law and litigation. Originally with Stoel Rives from 1983-88, she returned to the firm in 1991 after three years with Tektronix, Inc. as Legal Counsel for Employment Matters, then as Director, Employee Relations, Corporate Human Resources. She also has been named in *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Eileen earned her J.D. cum laude at the University of Michigan, a B.A. magna cum laude from Mundelein College in Chicago, Illinois and pursued Graduate study in political science at the University of Chicago.

Lynn Oetting is a member of **the Semiconductor Workforce Consortium** and has 11 years experience in the semiconductor industry. She currently works for Microchip Technology Inc as a Sr. Training Specialist where she manages both manufacturing training and employee development. She holds a BA in Psychology from Cal. State University, Fullerton (CSUF) and a Master of Education in Educational Psychology from Arizona State University (ASU). Her goal has always been to help people be successful, whatever that might look like.

Lynn was born and raised in Southern California, spending some of her time in Arizona and has been in Oregon for the last three years. She has a wonderful husband of 7 ½ years, Ken, and two beautiful boys, Garrett (5 ½ years) and Ryan (5 ½ months).

Leslie Lehmann joined **the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI)** in 1992 as its first executive director. Previously she had been vice president of government and public affairs for NERCO, Inc., a subsidiary of PacificCorp. She also worked in the State Executive Department under Governors McCall and Straub and taught political science at Willamette University. She is a former member and vice president of the Oregon Board of Higher Education and currently serves on the board of advisors of Southern Oregon University.

Leslie's interest in cluster linkages began when she worked in the energy field at NERCO. Her prior background as a political science professor contributed to her interest in such linkages. More recently, under her direction, OFRI has commissioned a series of economic studies on the future of Oregon's forest sector that includes an analysis of forest cluster opportunities. Among the results is an enhanced interest in developing a statewide forest sector strategy. Oregon Business Council is among OFRI's collaborators on this work.

Although not created with clustering in mind, OFRI sits at the crossroads of the public, private and higher education sectors and is a good example of organizations serving and supporting Oregon's forest sector. Leslie has had a role in higher education, public policy and the private sector initiatives throughout her career that further exemplify the resources and expertise she brings to this discussion.

Workforce Practitioners Bios

Kevin's Jeans-Gail is currently the Executive Director of The Portland Workforce Alliance. The Alliance is a coalition among Portland Public Schools, businesses, labor organizations, and the City of Portland that is working to prepare students for employment success and to meet the regions future workforce needs.

Prior to this position, Kevin was the Chief of Staff to City Commissioner Jim Francesconi. Kevin worked with Commissioner Francesconi on a variety of issues including reducing the city's business tax – particularly for small businesses, and worked with Portland Public Schools to initiate an after school program for low income youth.

Paul Molino is the director of the **Regional Microelectronics Training Center (RMTC) at Mt. Hood Community College** which is the result of a Strategic Investment Program (SIP) partnership with LSI Logic, Microchip Technology, Multnomah County, and eight east Multnomah County K-12 school districts. This partnership has resulted in over seven hundred Oregonians employed in the semiconductor industry in living wage jobs in his nine years at MHCC.

Paul came to MHCC from Clatsop Community College where he was the director of Career Services after consulting in Silicon Valley where he taught Statistic Process Control. Paul has over 20 years in the welding, testing, and inspection industry including Alaska's Arctic North Slope where he was a quality assurance inspector for Atlantic Richfield Oil and Gas. His father was a certified welder and his son, Roy, is a union Ironworker and welder.

Paul has a background in workforce development as a vocational counselor in the Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA), a summer youth coordinator in the Job Training and Partnership Act (JPTA), and in various initiatives in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

He has a Master's in Public Administration from Lewis & Clark College, BA in Psychology, and associate degrees in Welding Technology, and is the first person in the US to earn a degree in Non Destructive Testing (NDT).

Paul enjoys gardening, reading, and hiking in the Columbia Gorge and on Mt Hood. Summer vacations are usually spent in the colonial cities of central Mexico where his family is from.

Stephen Hobbs holds bachelor and Ph.D. degrees in Forestry. He joined the faculty at Oregon State University's College of Forestry in 1978 as an assistant professor. From 1978 until 1987 he was stationed in Medford as reforestation scientist and leader of Adaptive FIR Team; an interdisciplinary team of scientists developing solutions to the reforestation problems of southwestern Oregon.

In 1987 he became Director of the Coastal Oregon Productivity Enhancement (COPE) Program, an OSU and Forest Service research program focused on Coast Range forest and stream resources. Currently he is Professor and Associate Dean for Research in the College of Forestry and Associate Director of the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory at OSU. He is also Chair of the Oregon Board of Forestry.