

Software Association of Oregon (SAO) Cluster Submission

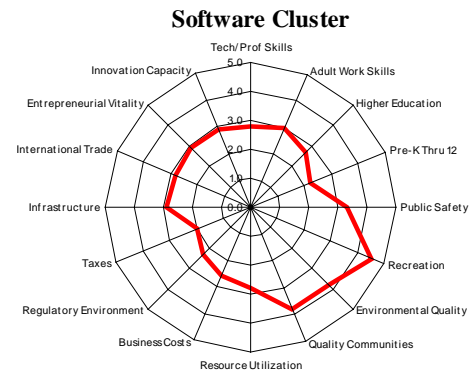
- **Key Cluster Participants:** Over 600 members including IBM, Intel, Open Source Development Labs, LRS Solutions, Lunar Logic, Tektronix, Microsoft Corporation, Mentor Graphics, Attensa, Corillian Corporation, Corrigo Inc., EasyStreet Online Services, Hewlett-Packard, Inspiration Software, WebTrends, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, SmartForest Ventures, Jones Partners, PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLC, West Coast Bank
- **Contact:** John Tortorici, President, SAO, 503.228.5401, john@sao.org, www.sao.org
- **Geographic Location:** Oregon and Southwestern Washington
- **Structure:** The SAO is a non-profit trade association and has monthly Executive Committee meetings, quarterly Board of Directors meetings, and produces over 30 events/year. Additionally, the SAO manages over 100 volunteers with more than ten committees that meet regularly and focus on various activities and initiatives.
- **Mission:** The mission of the SAO is to sustain a healthy & strong software industry cluster in Oregon by: Helping companies *Start*, Creating an environment where companies and entrepreneurs want to *Move*, Supporting company *Growth*
- **Background:** For over sixteen years the SAO has been a focal point for the software industry with members from a broad range of software dependent organizations including: those that publish and sell software as a product, those that embed software in their products or devices, and IT departments in organizations with software professionals on staff. The cluster is supported by the many organizations that provide services to the software industry.

Perception of Oregon's Overall Business Climate

Best ranking: Recreation, Environmental Quality, Quality Communities

Worst Ranking: Personal Taxes, Pre K-12 Education, Regulatory Environment

Areas to Address: Attraction & Retention of Companies, Availability of a Quality Workforce, Higher Education Skills Training



Top Core OBP Initiative Priorities

Improve Healthcare & Control Costs, Expand Oregon's Capacity for Economic Innovation, Achieve a Higher Return on Investment in PreK-20 Education, Targeted Workforce Development, Improve Public Finances & Services

Specific Cluster Priorities – Focused on Education & Workforce Development

Our members rely on an available and qualified workforce, and that means we need to invest in our students, our teachers and our workers. Our initiatives are focused on these three groups.

1. K-12: Invest in and promote the SAO Foundation's SuperQuest program statewide. Make SuperQuest available to any teacher in order to enhance their interest and ability to teach information technology, computer science and engineering to students.
2. Support an initiative to drive legislation that creates financial incentives (e.g. tax credits) for companies that hire interns (high school, college, educators from K-20).
3. Invest in and promote the Oregon Training Network (OTN) statewide. The Oregon Training Network is a state-seeded initiative to assess, aggregate and deliver on the training needs of the state's information technology (IT) workforce. The OTN operates as a broker and neutral clearinghouse for topical expertise and quality IT-related training services.