NEWS RELEASE
Distributed 6/7/05
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KCDC, MECOP to receive OIT Partnership Awards

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. – The Klamath Community Development Corporation (KCDC) and the Multiple Engineering Cooperate Program (MECOP) will receive Oregon Institute of Technology's two 2005 Community Partnership Awards.

The awards will be presented at a dinner Friday night (June 10) on the campus, part of the University's annual Commencement weekend. The 2005 Community Partnership Award will go to the Klamath Community Development Corporation for its support of the University's Center for Health Professions project. The 2005 Industry and Education Partnership Award will go to MECOP, a business/education externship partnership program in which OIT students participate.

Neil Eberlein, vice president of the KCDC board and a community business leader, will accept the award on behalf of the Klamath Community Development Corporation. This Award specifically recognizes the university's appreciation for the planning grant the KCDC awarded to OIT in support of its Center for Health Professions.

"This planning grant is helping to boost this initiative into reality," President Dow said. The KCDC is comprised of "a strong group of community activists who are committed to improving the quality of life in the Klamath Basin through the creation of employment opportunities for its citizens. We appreciate and admire their efforts."

MECOP, the winner of the Industry and Education Partnership Award, is based at Oregon State University and sponsors internships with businesses for engineering majors. Sigmund Stout, Product Development Coordinator for Kodak in White City and a MECOP Board member, will accept the award for the organization.

OIT is now approaching its fourth year in MECOP and has had 19 students participate so far in OIT's Mechanical and Manufacturing programs. They have worked at Warn Industries, FEI, Intel, GE, ADEC, Hynix, LSI, Boeing, Freightliner and more. Supported by OIT faculty Brian Moravec and Tim Brower, OIT has 21 applicants for the program for next year.

"MECOP has helped OIT build on one of its strengths, its close ties to industry, by offering students excellent opportunities to combine classroom and hands-on learning," President Dow said. "MECOP has an excellent tradition of turning engineering students into professional engineers, and we are proud to be part of it and to recognize the importance of this relationship to us."

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