

EMPLOYER-CLASSROOM CONNECTION CHALLENGE

We all want Oregon's schools to be among the best in the nation. We all know that won't happen without real change. Here is one of the best places to start: Help the Oregonians you know best – your employees – get involved in Oregon's schools. When you do, you'll be recognized as an Oregon Education Champion – a company that's working for schools.

To get you started, Chalkboard Project, E3: Employers for Education Excellence and the Oregon Business Plan have created the Employer-Classroom Connection Challenge.

THE CHALLENGE

Adopt specific policies and practices that encourage school involvement and volunteerism by all of your employees – whether they have kids in school or not. To succeed, we need more than 500 Oregon employers to participate in the challenge by taking specific action before January 2007.



TAKE ACTION

Companies that participate will be recognized and honored as Oregon Education Champions. Their names will be published in statewide media and on our organizations' websites (shown below). Each company will also receive an Oregon Education

Champion e-Certificate/logo to use on their website and on marketing materials – demonstrating their commitment to making schools work in Oregon.

To become a Champion: ① Implement at least three of the Challenge activities in your company; and ② Commit to recording the activities for three years.

JOIN OUR CHAMPION HONOR ROLL

Sign up to become an Oregon Education Champion by filling out the attached form or by registering online at www.E3oregon.org/championform. Then, each year, you will be required to complete a short online survey to help us gain useful information for continuing to improve Oregon's schools.



Community involvement is one of the simplest and strongest tools for improving Oregon schools. When you join the Challenge, you send a strong signal to your employees that Oregon's schools matter.

FIND US ONLINE AT:

www.chalkboardproject.org
www.E3oregon.org
www.oregonbusinessplan.org



MAKE THE CONNECTION

Most Oregonians say greater community involvement is crucial for our public schools. And most Oregonians want to be more involved. The two biggest barriers – according to Chalkboard's statewide survey – are time and conflicts with work. You can meet the challenge with at least three of the following activities. Please check the three your organization will implement or is already implementing:



MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:

E3: Employers for Education Excellence
1100 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1625
Portland, OR 97204

OR COMPLETE FORM ONLINE AT:

www.E3oregon.org/championform

✓ PROVIDE TIME

- Offer employees flextime, extended lunch hours or compressed work weeks so they can get involved in school activities. The hours could be made up by staying at work late or coming in early.
- Provide your employees with 10 minutes a day at their computer workstation to check their child's progress or review homework assignments if the school has the information available to them online.
- Allow paid time off for employees to volunteer in schools (whether or not they have children in school). A number of leading employers are already doing this.

✓ ENCOURAGE VOLUNTEERISM

- Connect with existing organizations and programs to provide mentors or tutors to help more students achieve and excel. To find these organizations and programs, contact E3 or Chalkboard Project and we'll help you get connected.
- Provide knowledgeable "on-loan" employees to support schools in areas such as financial management, budgeting, purchasing, team building, communication skills, data processing and strategic planning.
- Provide learning opportunities at your company for teachers and students (job shadows, tours, mentoring, internships, etc.).

✓ PROVIDE RESOURCES

- Offer incentives to employees who are involved in education work, such as providing community leave time, matching employee donations to schools, or making financial contributions to match employee volunteer time.
- Offer space at your business for parent-teacher conferences and other school meetings.

Name _____ Title _____

Company _____

Address _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT: E3: EMPLOYERS FOR EDUCATION EXCELLENCE 503-595-7616.