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MEDP Receives Grant to Teach Community Internship Workshops

(MCMINNVILLE, OR) - The McMinnville Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) received a grant from the Oregon Talent Council (OTC) earlier this year to inspire regions in Oregon to create community internship programs. MEDP's own program, the McMinnville WORKS Internship Program, was created in 2013 and has seen success in the past five years. Due to this success communities throughout Oregon have often requested materials and insight from the organization. With the grant MEDP received from the OTC and in partnership with Governor Brown's Regional Solutions Office, MEDP was able to provide this insight.

The grant gave MEDP the resources to create a new workshop titled Oregon | WORKS. The program materials includes a comprehensive workbook which reflects on the history of the McMinnville WORKS Internship Program, the structure, components, and hindsight through MEDP's experience. The workbook also includes an abundance of materials to be used as examples for other communities such as marketing materials, human resource forms, application examples, and more.

The Oregon | WORKS workshop was delivered to four Oregon communities in the months of May and June. MEDP met with Regional Solutions Coordinators to market the opportunity who were then able to work within their regions to help communities apply. MEDP delivered workshops in The Port of the Dalles, Bend, Marion County, and Albany Oregon.

Jamie Christman, Bend Chamber, stated, "You helped us think about things from perspectives not yet considered and were a valuable component of helping shape our program's next steps."

Workshops included a reflection of MEDP's experience with their own internship program, a deeper look into the structure, concepts, and what MEDP believes is the key to success. Participants were also given the chance to design their own ideal internship programs, in small groups, and with all of the participants. Determining common themes, MEDP then led attendees through an exercise to identify the resources needed, the resources available and who was missing from the conversation.

"Thank you for our workshop, it's a big reason why we were able to get the level of enthusiasm we have," said Kathy Ursprung, The Port of the Dalles.

To learn more about how to bring an Oregon | WORKS Community Internship Workshop to your town, please call MEDP at 503.474.6814.

About MEDP: The Partnership includes the City of McMinnville, McMinnville Water & Light, McMinnville Industrial Promotions, the McMinnville Area Chamber of Commerce, and area businesses. To learn more about the McMinnville Economic Development Partnership, visit www.McMinnvilleBusiness.com or find us at facebook.com/McMinnvilleBusiness.