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February 15, 2011
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For Immediate Release

Workforce Training Grants Available

The Oregon Workforce Alliance (OWA) Workforce Investment Board was recently awarded over \$609,000.00 in federal funding to help companies across rural Oregon avoid closure and workforce reductions. One of the goals of the OWA is to assist companies in maintaining current employment levels by utilizing federal layoff aversion dollars. These funds are available to assist companies in retraining their current employees in order to address the unique needs of the business in order to remain competitive. This could include training in new or advanced skills that enable an employee to multi task or be more productive. For the employee, simply to remain employable may require the attainment of new or advanced skills, certifications or credentials.

“The purpose of the Employer Workforce Training Fund Program is to assist employers in training currently employed workers in an effort to keep businesses and workers competitive. Private sector employers located in Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath and Lake Counties faced with changing skill requirements caused by new technology, retooling, new product lines, or other changing industry or occupational job requirements may be eligible for EWTF assistance,” said Tom Moore, Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Executive Director.

Priority for funding is given to applicants who demonstrate that the funding could assist the business in avoiding a layoff, downsizing or closure; or would provide retention opportunities by upgrading employee skills as a result of the training.

Funding for Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath and Lake Counties will flow through the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council. Training applications are due by the last day of each month until funds are depleted, beginning March 31, 2011. To download information on how businesses in Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson, Klamath and Lake Counties can apply and qualify for Employer Workforce Training funds, please visit www.coic.org.

The Employer Workforce Training Fund Program is funded, in part, by the U.S. Department of Labor and administered by the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.

An Equal Opportunity Employer Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available, upon request, to individuals with disabilities.

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