

Commissioner's Message

February 22, 2011

CTE on legislature's front burner as Brad expands coalition of supporters

The movement is growing to ensure all Oregon students have access to high-quality career and technical education (CTE) options that teach emerging or in-demand job skills. House Bill 3362 was formally introduced on Monday, with 59 of Oregon's 90 state senators and representatives signed on as co-sponsors.

- B [Read the coalition's bill](#), or [contact your legislators](#) to let them know that you support a statewide commitment to CTE for Oregon's kids. If your legislators are already signed on as sponsors, thank them for their support!
- B [Read more](#) about Brad's roundtable discussion with the folks who are making CTE so successful in the Corvallis School District.
- B [Hear Brad](#) talk about a great model for CTE programs in Oregon: Tillamook High School.

HB 3362 is backed by a diverse coalition of businesses, labor unions, trade associations and other Oregonians, and is the crucial first step in restoration of CTE programs to communities around our state. This bill will also begin building the comprehensive system of CTE options that Brad and so many others are advocating.



Brad with State Rep. Sara Gelser and others at Corvallis High School, inspecting a portable solar energy training module used in Corvallis' electrical CTE program.

The Brad Tracker—Pt. 1

Session days are always busy, but in addition to meeting with legislators, Brad has recently visited: The Oregon Consortium and Oregon Workforce Alliance, the Oregon Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Yamhill County Democrats and the Associated Oregon Industries Legislative Committee.

In his spare time

Beyond his responsibilities as BOLI Commissioner, Brad is finding time to write a civil rights book. In typical Brad fashion, the emphasis will not be on him: these are personal, individual stories from around Oregon. For more on the project, read this report from [the Oregonian](#).

The Brad Tracker—Pt. 2

Within the next couple of weeks, Brad is set to visit the Columbia County Democrats, speak to the Oregon Trial Lawyers and School Employees Associations during their lobby days in Salem, address the Independent Electrical Contractors of Oregon and tour Reynolds High School's Pre-Apprenticeship Programs.

Reducing barriers to employment and diversifying our workforce

With Oregon's economy still working to rebound, BOLI is bringing money to bear directly on recruitment and retention issues in our construction workforce. With funding through the BOLI-ODOT Heavy Highway Workforce Development Program, local community programs will provide supportive services to current or aspiring construction workers throughout the state. Services will include:

- i Cooper Zietz Engineers who, in addition to subcontracting for a host of services, will offer direct support to highway workers through travel assistance and child care subsidies, helping Oregonians take and keep living-wage jobs.
- i CZE's subcontractors (Lois D. Cohen Associates, Oregon Tradeswomen, NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center and Pacific Northwest Carpenters Institute) will provide information to students interested in the highway construction trades, prepare individuals to enter an apprenticeship program, and support apprentices who are starting their careers.
- i Portland Youthbuilders will offer additional pre-apprenticeship supportive services, including orientations to the trades, career counseling, training in foundational skills and qualification for financial assistance for future education through AmeriCorps.

This story first appeared in the [Portland Business Journal](#); stay tuned to [BOLI News Central](#) for announcement of additional contract awards that will be made soon.