

BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES (BOLI)  
COMMISSIONER BRAD AVAKIAN

**Commissioner's Message – March 8, 2012**  
*A Special Legislative Adjournment Message from  
Oregon's Labor and Industries Commissioner*

Dear Friends:

**Our victory for Oregon students in 2011 has been affirmed.** The state's historic commitment to revitalizing hands-on learning through the Career and Technical Education Revitalization Grant Fund continues and **the fund remains intact, ready to go full steam ahead in awarding grants next month.** So, having consolidated last session's victory, what happens next?

First and foremost, we ensure that the inaugural grants are awarded to diverse programs in various communities around the state. Supporting a variety of models in different Oregon communities will generate good experiential data for looking at future grant proposals, and it also reinforces the statewide commitment that was made by the legislature. There are plenty of Oregonians still learning about this important new effort in public education, and besides doing our work effectively, we also have to do it publicly and let our neighbors know that while it will take a few years to engage all of our kids in 21<sup>st</sup> Century shop classes, that is where the state is heading.

Second, we start talking now about what can be done with the second round of revitalization grants. Forty-seven grant proposals were received this year that would impact 171 Oregon schools, and the grant fund won't be able to support all of those programs. But you know that **I have always believed in, and I remain absolutely committed to, restoring access to high-quality options that teach emerging or in-demand job skills for every Oregon student.** This is a multi-year effort, an extended push by our coalition of education advocates and organized labor, trade associations and business owners, to build a foundation for Oregon's emerging workforce that will support broader economic prosperity.

Right now, we have momentum in exactly the right direction. We need to sustain it by staying informed and helping others to get informed.

**Keep tracking this issue through my email updates, let your friends and colleagues know that this important effort is rolling on, and encourage them to [sign up for my newsletter](#) as well.**

Sincerely,

Brad Avakian  
Oregon Labor and Industries Commissioner