



## FOUNDATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 6, 2017

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**#PoweringPotential — PGE Foundation invests nearly a half million dollars in Oregon’s future workforce through education-focused grants**

*2016 Annual Report now available online*

PORTLAND, Ore. — The PGE Foundation — the corporate foundation of Portland General Electric — awarded 39 grants totaling \$488,074 in the first quarter of 2017 to education nonprofits across Oregon. Together, these grants support the foundation’s goal of helping students prepare to succeed in college and careers.

“We’re investing in organizations who share our commitment to powering the potential of Oregon’s students,” said Kregg Arntson, executive director of PGE Foundation. “Fostering vibrant, livable communities in our region depends on preparing our students for job opportunities fueled by Oregon’s innovation economy. Together, we are helping our students, our communities, our businesses and our state to thrive.”

Grants were awarded to organizations focused on one of five key themes: preparing students for transitions between key educational milestones, like middle school to high school and high school to college; closing the achievement gap; developing workforce and job-ready skills; developing education policy and leadership capacity; and awarding equity-based scholarships.

For example, College Possible — an organization that helps make college success possible for low-income students by providing an intensive curriculum of coaching and support — was awarded \$15,000 for its summer program designed to arm students with knowledge and resources necessary for a successful college transition.

“A college degree is the likeliest pathway out of poverty,” said Julie Mancini, Executive Director of College Possible. “Funds from the PGE Foundation support low-income students through key barriers, like understanding the financial aid resources available to them and making sure they’ve completed the requirements necessary to gain admittance and enroll in college. Thanks

to the support of our strong partners, our students are reaching their dreams of higher education and breaking the cycle of generational poverty, changing their lives and strengthening our community.”

Throughout the granting process, special consideration was given to programs with an emphasis on Career Technical Education and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (CTE-STEM). Since 2013, the PGE Foundation has increased its CTE-STEM funding fivefold given the strong impact it has proven to have on motivating middle school and high school students to graduate with clear paths to careers, whether they choose to start with college, post-secondary learning or on-the-job-training.

One way the foundation is supporting CTE-STEM is through grants to organizations like Saturday Academy. The organization received \$15,000 to support STEAM Academy, a multi-week academic summer camp for youth in the Portland area. The camp features learning experiences that combine academic tutoring and hands-on classes focused on science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM).

“At Saturday Academy, we are dedicated to providing opportunities for young people to follow their curiosity — regardless of their financial means. We connect them to people and experiences that will help them develop intellectually and prepare them for rewarding careers,” said Jeri Janowsky, Executive Director, Saturday Academy. “Through this grant, PGE Foundation is helping address the equity gap in education by supporting our efforts to ensure that *all* Portland area children are able to follow their curiosity through innovative, hands-on learning.”

Also this week, The PGE Foundation released its 2016 Annual Report, available online at [pgefoundation.org](http://pgefoundation.org). With more than \$1 million in grants in 2016, the foundation supported the collaborative work of community organizations dedicated to strengthening families, improving student achievement, inspiring young people through arts and culture experiences, and creating clear pathways to college and career.

## **First quarter 2017 grants awarded:**

### **Key educational transitions :**

- **Better Together Central Oregon, \$25,000:** To support and expand College Access & Pathways to Construction and Manufacturing Career programs in Central Oregon
- **Latino Network, \$15,000:** To support 9th Grade Counts, a culturally-specific summer bridge program for at-risk Latino students

- **Marathon Education Partners, Inc, \$25,000.:** To prepare high potential 11th graders with socio-economic challenges for senior year, and help 12th graders bridge to their freshman year in college
- **Portland Community College Foundation, Inc., \$25,000:** To support PCC Future Connect, a program that provides 300 academically at-risk high school youth with scholarship support and wraparound services
- **College Possible, \$15,000:** To support a summer transition program for students as they work to successfully enroll in college

#### **Closing the achievement gap:**

- **REAP, Inc., \$10,000:** To expand Solutions, a school-based leadership/civic engagement program, to serve more students
- **Elevate Oregon, \$10,000:** To support students in East Multnomah County's Parkrose district through a mentorship designed to promote education, self-reliance and leadership
- **Camp Fire USA Columbia Council, \$15,000:** To close achievement gaps and improve graduation rates for priority youth in East Portland
- **Community Transitional School, \$10,000:** To fund the transportation program in the 2017-2018 school year, providing daily transportation to and from school for homeless youth

#### **Workforce and job-ready skills:**

- **Constructing Hope Pre-apprenticeship Program, \$11,000:** To support construction training and career placement for 100 low-income community members
- **Impact NW – CORE, \$25,000:** To provide young people with career readiness skills and connection to employment opportunities
- **MECOP, Inc., \$25,000:** To fully endow the Rand Sherwood Scholarship for MECOP students, an internship program designed to enhance and expand industry driven internships in cooperation with Oregon universities, in memory of deceased PGE employee Rand Sherwood
- **Friends of the Children — Portland, \$15,000:** To support college and career readiness programming for high-priority adolescents in the Portland area

#### **Education policy and leadership capacity:**

- **Foundations for a Better Oregon, \$12,000:** To support the participation of David Douglas and Tillamook School Districts in Chalkboard's equity pilot

- **Stand for Children Leadership Center, \$10,000:** To support Stand's efforts to help districts around the state improve high school graduation rates, expand CTE and create career pathways
- **Oregon Business Council Charitable Institute, \$25,000:** To support state leaders in shaping strategies, policies and investments in CTE-STEM education

#### **Equity-based scholarships:**

- **Oregon Alliance of Independent Colleges and Universities, \$39,142**
- **Oregon State University Foundation, \$29,142**
- **Oregon Tech Foundation, \$19,142**
- **Portland State University Foundation, \$25,000**

#### **CTE-STEM:**

- **Airway Science for Kids, \$10,000:** To support growth of the Teen Flight program, which builds advanced STEM skills through aeronautics
- **David Douglas Educational Foundation, \$5,000:** To support CTE career exploration for 60 middle school students in the David Douglas School District
- **Friends of Saturday Academy, \$15,000:** To support low-income youth by providing an academic camp aimed at overcoming summer learning loss
- **I Have a Dream Foundation, \$5,000:** To support STEAM programming for approximately 580 students in the Reynolds School district
- **Oregon MESA, \$5,000:** To support STEM education for 60 underserved students in East Multnomah County in the Reynolds School District

PGE Foundation Grants are awarded to local nonprofits located in areas where PGE has customers or power generating plants. For 2017, grantmaking will focus on education, arts and culture education, and safe and stable families. Next quarter's focus will be on arts and culture education, given the connection that has been made to student engagement and academic achievement. Applications are being accepted through April 10, 2017 for a June decision. Later in 2017, the foundation will award grants focused on supporting safe and stable families and programs and organizations that promote and provide access to basic needs and services. Applications will be accepted June 1 — July 10 for a September decision. Visit [pgefoundation.org](http://pgefoundation.org) for more information.

***About the PGE Foundation:*** *The PGE Foundation, the corporate foundation of Portland General Electric, was established in 1997 as a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization with a permanent endowment. The Foundation's giving is separate from the corporate giving of PGE. Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than 1,700 grants and distributed more than \$20.7 million to help improve the quality of life for Oregonians by supporting programs and services that encourage safe and healthy families, provide educational opportunities, and encourage arts and cultural diversity. Gwyneth Gamble Booth is chair, Dave Robertson is president and Kregg Arntson is executive director. To learn more about the PGE Foundation, visit [pgefoundation.org](http://pgefoundation.org).*