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August 27, 2009

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INTEL AWARDS \$20,000 GRANT TO ACE ACADEMY'S ENGINEERING PROGRAM

Grant will strengthen high school curriculum

Portland, OR – A \$20,000 Intel grant promises to strengthen the high school engineering program offered by the Academy for Architecture, Construction & Engineering (ACE Academy).

"Intel's support to ACE Academy's program is invaluable," said Oregon Building Congress (OBC) Executive Director, Dick O'Connor. *"Without such contributions from industry, the ACE Academy could not exist."*

The cornerstone of ACE Academy's successful engineering program is a nationally recognized, industry-relevant curriculum: Project Lead the Way (PLTW). The Intel grant will support start-up classroom materials and supplies, software, and consumables needed to offer the five PLTW courses: *Introduction to Engineering Design, Principals of Engineering, Civil Engineering/Architecture, Digital Electronics, and Engineering Design and Development.*

PLTW offers a rigorous and dynamic high school program that provides students with real-world learning and hands-on experience. PLTW courses engage high school students through a combination of activities-based, project-based, and problem-based learning which creates an environment for applying engineering concepts to real world problems.

The combination of traditional math and science courses with innovative PLTW courses prepares students for college majors in engineering and related fields and offers them the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school.

ACE Academy will offer five courses via Project Lead the Way curriculum for the 2009-2010 school year to approximately 50 junior and senior students. The curriculum will be further supported with field trips to relevant facilities and projects in order for students to meet a variety of professional engineers, experience real-world applications of their lessons, and further understand the skills needed to be successful in engineering careers.

Morgan Anderson, Intel Oregon Education Relations Manager, stated that the Oregon Building Congress' programs *"provide students with the skills and real-world experience to jump-start their path to a future in engineering."*

Nearly 200 juniors and seniors are enrolled in ACE Academy for the coming school year.

The Oregon Building Congress (OBC) partners with teachers, businesses, public agencies, and apprenticeship training centers to deliver hands-on, innovative outreach programs, including the ACE Academy, Summer Construction Academies, the Green Building Initiative, and Math and Science Teacher Workshops. For more information about OBC and ACE Academy, please visit www.obcweb.com and www.acecharterschool.org respectively.