



GTA October Newsletter

October 2007

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In this edition of the Gorge Technology Alliance newsletter you'll find items of interest to the community and some that are specific to the GTA. You are welcome to respond to amanda@crgta.org about any newsletter items.

• **The Connected Executive: October GTA meeting**

The October meeting of the Gorge Technology Alliance will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2007. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. with networking, followed by a brief business meeting then the main speaker. This meeting will feature a presentation titled "The Connected Executive."

GTA meetings provide an opportunity for high tech entrepreneurs to network with one another and to learn from educational presentations.

• **Pre-Engineering High School Program**

North Wasco County School District #21 has started a new pre-engineering course, Project Lead the Way, at The Dalles Wahtonka High School. The program provides students with the knowledge necessary to pursue engineering or engineering technology programs in college; enhancing their ability to enter into the high tech industry.

Partnering with Columbia Gorge Community College, North Wasco County School District 21 began the program in September 2007 with 40 students.

The program has opportunities available for high tech companies to participate in the program by hosting interns, acting as mentors, or providing tours of their facilities. If interested, please contact Amanda Remington with the GTA at 541-296-2266 or Brian Goodwin with North Wasco School District at goodwinb@nwasco.k12.or.us.

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Gorge Technology Alliance Mission

Our mission is to promote the technology business sector of the Columbia River Gorge and build new alliances to strengthen our surrounding communities.

We focus on "lifestyle entrepreneurs;" individuals who take advantage of the area's recreational resources and business opportunities, combining their drive for recreational activities with an industry cluster that continues to expand.

[Visit our website](#)

- **November GTA Job Networking Event**

The Gorge Technology Alliance will begin hosting quarterly events focused solely on networking. Our first event will connect potential high tech employers in the Gorge with potential employees. We are in the process of organizing this first event, which will be held in November. If you would like to participate, please contact us at amanda@crgta.org.

- **Request for Computer Donation**

Chris Hipskind with White Salmon School District would like to publicly thank GTA members for their help in setting up the Robotics curriculum at the High School. The class piloted last year with much success. Demand for the class more than tripled.

With lots of students, small budgets and little equipment comes student frustration. The high school is trying to add a curriculum unit on Computer programming and machine perception (sensors, controls logic, etc using Lego Mindstorms technology). They are in need of 6 more computers which can run at 800 mhz or faster. If anyone is upgrading their systems and looking for an opportunity to recycle that technology to a good cause, contact Chris Hipskind.

Also, the school district is still looking for a CNC mill, if you have one you could donate.

You can reach Chris at chris.hipskind@esd112.wednet.edu.

- **Virtualization: Energy Efficiency and more... October 9th
Clean Technology Forum
*Virtualization: Energy Efficiency and More***

Moderator:
Stacey Mark - Partner, Ater Wynne

Cost: \$20 SAO members \$35 non-members. Register at www.sao.org. For more information, contact: Bryce Yonker at bryce.yonker@sao.org or 503 228 5443

- **Add the GTA link to your website**

Help promote the GTA! Add a link to <http://www.crgta.org> to your website. It is a simple way to support your alliance. If you need assistance, please contact Amanda at 541-296-2266.

- **Housing Forum for Employers**

Employer Assisted Homeownership Benefits Forum
Hood River Inn
Wednesday, October 10, 2007
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

This is a follow up to the Mid Columbia Housing Summit held earlier this year. This forum will provide information about programs available to assist with employee home ownership. Employers (both large and small businesses) are invited to attend along with lenders and government officials. Learn about the range of ways employers can help their employees obtain homeownership, from no-cost to limited assistance. Network with community partners and share your ideas on how more workers can become homeowners.

There is no cost for this forum, which includes a lunch. Please register right away as space is limited.

Register online
at: <http://www.frbsf.org/community/resources/events.html>

[To register click here...](#)

- **MCEDD Loan Funds Available for Businesses**

In Oregon, the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District will receive \$750,000 through USDA's Intermediary Relending Program for non-profit organizations assistance to help create 105 jobs for Hood River, Wasco and Sherman counties. Funding in the Intermediary Relending Program goes to community development or regional planning groups as intermediaries, who then re-lend the money to local businesses. The loans must be used to start new businesses, expand existing ones, or create or retain jobs.

- **National Geographic- Hood River Oregon**

The National Geographic Adventure Magazine (and website) recently listed Hood River, Oregon listed as one of the "Best Places to Live + Play: Mountain Towns". View more at <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/adventure/relocating/best-places-to-live-2007/mountains/mountains.html> (scroll down).

- **GTA Presents "Technology and Economic Growth in the Columbia River Gorge"**

The Gorge Technology Alliance has been on the road, doing outreach presentations about the organization and the recent white paper written by board member Mark Flaming. So far we have made presentations to:

- Hood River County Commissioners
- Wasco County Commissioners
- Skamania County Commissioners
- Klickitat County Commissioners
- Goldendale Chamber
- White Salmon Rotary
- City of Hood River

Additional presentations are planned to Port Commissions, other local groups, Gorge Commission, and cities. Many thanks to John Hardham and Mark Flaming for participating in these presentations!

- **High Tech Companies Featured in Recent "Business is Good Tour"**

The Business Is Good! tour stopped in 18 host communities across the state, beginning with Astoria on September 10, and ending in Portland on September 28. The Tour, spearheaded by Oregon Business magazine, brought together business leaders from across the state and is designed to cast a spotlight on people, industries and communities and their unique contributions to Oregon's economic vitality.

Two Gorge communities were highlighted on the tour, The Dalles and Hood River. On September 25th a number of high tech businesses in Hood River joined the tour for a stop at Full Sail Brewing Company. Visit <http://www.oregonbusiness.com/tour> and click on "tour blog" to read a first hand account of the event.

- **Calendar of Events**

10/8/07: TCI tour highlighting rural industry clusters, including

the GTA.

10/8/07: "Export Strategies, Tools and Techniques" seminar in Bend from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Shilo Inn.

10/9/07: Clean Technology workshop hosted by SAO. Civic Auditorium in The Dalles at noon.

10/10/07: Housing Forum, Hood River Inn

10/23/07: Gorge Technology Alliance October meeting: "The Connected Executive"

- **Submit your News!**

If you have news that is pertinent to GTA members or activities, please pass it along to Amanda at amanda@crgta.org. News items are needed by the end of each month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

- **Subscribe/Unsubscribe**

You are welcome to pass along this newsletter to employees, friends, suppliers and business partners that may have an interest in the GTA or the news contained in this newsletter. To subscribe to the newsletter, please contact the GTA at amanda@crgta.org. Past editions of the newsletter are posted to our website.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, please click on the "safe unsubscribe" icon below.

