

EOU & Ignite to boost successful model of 1:1 high-dosage tutoring

Partnership also includes Morrow County School District to develop pipeline of trained teachers to unlock student potential in local schools

Amid a backdrop of ongoing covid-related learning disruptions, Ignite! Reading, a Zoom-powered K-5 literacy tutoring program, announced today a new partnership with Eastern Oregon University's College of Education to train teachers how to teach literacy. Ignite! Reading, which offset pandemic-related learning losses in its recent summer and fall pilot programs, provides foundational skills reading instruction through high-dosage, 1:1, 15-minute daily virtual tutoring delivered during the school day.

Oregon's Morrow County School District is also partnering with the new program to help develop a pipeline of well-trained teachers from EOU that will unlock the learning potential of students in local schools.

Using the Ignite! Reading model, the partnership will launch with a ten-week program that begins with intensive teacher training rooted in the science of reading and an evidence-based reading foundational skills curriculum, followed by the implementation of daily tutoring with K-5 students locally, as well as remotely across the country. Ignite! Reading will train EOU's teachers and provide a practicum experience through the context of virtual tutoring as well as real-time coaching and support to ensure tutors become highly proficient in implementing a Science of Reading-aligned curriculum.

"EOU's College of Education is very excited about the opportunity to partner with Ignite! Reading to improve literacy outcomes for kids by providing equitable access to high-quality reading instruction," said Dr. Ronda Fritz, Associate Professor at Eastern Oregon University's College of Education. "Embedding hands-on experience tutoring struggling readers using evidence-based practices for intervention will be extremely beneficial to our pre-service teachers and the future students in their classrooms!"

"The evidence shows that high-dosage literacy tutoring rooted in the Science of Reading improves outcomes for kids in profound ways. We're thrilled to partner with Eastern Oregon University to train teachers how to put these concepts into practice so that the next generation of students will have the ability to read on time," said Jessica Reid Sliwinski, Founder of Ignite! Reading and CEO of Open Up Resources. "This innovative partnership will equip teachers with the tools they need to bring effective literacy instruction into their own classrooms and communities."

"We are very excited to partner with both EOU and Ignite! Reading to maximize the benefits of this program for our students. Coming out of Covid and navigating through a much-needed ELA adoption year, we were searching for innovative ways to better support our students.

Based on the science of reading, Ignite's targeted, evidence-based approach will be a great fit for the next generation of students and teachers," said Erin Stocker, Executive Director of Elementary Education and Human Resources.

Ignite! Reading teaches foundational reading skills targeted to where a student falls on the continuum of learning to read and includes students and tutors reading together to build oral language, vocabulary and comprehension. Ignite! Reading was incubated by Open Up Resources to develop new approaches to addressing the nation's early reading challenges. Designed by some of the nation's top practitioners and educators, Ignite!'s tutoring program has shown remarkable results in student achievement, including helping kids make three weeks of reading progress per week.

Results from Ignite! Reading's fall pilot at KIPP Bridge Academy in West Oakland showed that:

-Students made three weeks of reading progress for every week of tutoring they received.

-100 percent of IEP students passed their first progress monitoring assessment.

-85 percent of English Learner students passed their first progress monitoring assessment.

-93 percent of Latinx and 89 percent of black students passed their first progress monitoring assessment.

Another successful Shamrock Walk held

"You never know until Saturday morning who will come, and the turnout this year far exceeded our expectations because we had previously had the pandemic interruption," said a spokesperson, "But many hands, hearts and minds created another successful Memory Shamrock Walk in Heppner on March 12." And the committee is already making plans for its 15th celebration next year, with an expanded offering of a social hour and "eats and treats," the spokesperson continued.

Spearheading the event, committee members Janelle Ellis, Susan Hisler, Patty Matheny, Peggy Fishburn and Kathi Dickenson have been involved since their first walk, the tribute to Donna Schonbachler, and have since then been joined by Sandy Matthews, Mary Haguwood, Shelley McCabe and Kirsten Harrison.

They stress that success was only possible because of the many more individuals who volunteered

to help where needed: Earl Fishburn, Travis and Charlie Harrison, Ken and Kaedene Bailey, Tinley Rosenbaum, Terri Gentry, Darcy Robinson, Jacque Hedman, Sheri Warnock, Annie, Reese and Peyton Weygant, Skip Matthews, Hallee Hisler, Kord Dickenson and the HHS National Honor Society members: Paul Lindsay, Jacob and Hannah Finch, Conor Brosnan, Cody Fletcher, Trevor Nichols, Madison Palmer and Juli Teeman.

Donations were also important ingredients in the successful event, including the bottled water from Friends-Helping-Friends, Ashley Collette and Susan Hisler; and the zip ties from Adam and Shelley McCabe. Everyone was also thankful that Two Old Hags Pizza again offered their building for displaying many of the memorial shamrocks. And the Methodist Church again welcomed the event and offered their basement for headquarters. Some financial donations were

mailed in, and some came on the day of the walk. The spokesperson reports, "If you want to make a donation, it's not too late. It can be mailed to Kathi Dickenson, Box 566, Heppner." She has been in charge of their "pot of gold" for many years, and that pot has been used "to support this community and causes chosen. It continues to happen due to the generosity of many."

Next year needs a logo for the 2022 commemorative wristbands, so Susan Hisler would appreciate your suggestions. The event, as well as being the 15th for the walk, may be the last offering of additional memory shamrocks, but they can still be ordered now by contacting Susan, 541-676-5878.

The Shamrock Memory Walk committee believes that "losing loved ones is difficult but seeing all the families smile and laugh and gather at their loved ones' shams, makes our event worth all we put into it."

Building tourism can stimulate local economy

Building tourism in a manageable, sustainable way can stimulate the local economy, protect, and enhance local resources and foster community pride—without compromising the qualities that make the place so special.

Karie Walchli has been contracted with Morrow County to help conduct a destination development community input studio series for each of the communities in Morrow County. She brings with her 14 years of tourism experience and development with Umatilla County. She is on the Eastern Oregon Visitors

Association (EOVA) board, the EOVA Marketing committee, EOVA Agritourism Task Force, Travel Oregon Food and Farm Trail Development Committee, and Chair of the River to Hills Farm Trail and Whisky & Rocks Farm Trail.

Total direct travel spending in Oregon was \$12.8 billion in 2019. And while we are still recovering from the effects of Covid, the travel and tourism industry is projected to be back at, if not better than the 2019 numbers by the end of 2022.

The Gross Domestic Product of the travel industry was \$5.8 billion in 2019. Overall, the travel industry is one of the three largest export-oriented industries in rural Oregon counties (the other two being agriculture/food processing and logging/wood products).

Why is destination development important? It can provide opportunities for product/asset development that will enhance the visitor experience and the destination's identity and brand expression. Tourism is integral to economic development and is a key driver and tool to achieve

wider economic development goals.

Tourism development planning, or lack of, can make or break a destination. If done well, it can ensure the longevity of the tourism industry in the area, take good care of the environment and have positive economic outcomes and a positive benefit to the community.

"Join us to learn how these studios for Morrow County will help communities cultivate regional visions; identify strategies to harness the power of tourism; and develop unique experiences in culinary and agritourism, outdoor recreation, bicycle tourism, cultural heritage tourism and more," the press release stated.

"During the input studios we will determine assets, breakdown challenges and develop opportunities to help build a robust strategic plan for tourism in Morrow County," the press release continued.

Additional and updated information may be found by following Morrow County Tourism on Facebook and Instagram.

AWS launching new fund

Amazon Web Services (AWS), as part of its commitment to helping create and deliver innovative programs with long lasting impact in Oregon and beyond, is launching a new \$200,000 fund for local community groups, schools and non-profit organizations in Morrow County.

The new fund, which will be administered by non-profit ChangeX, will help local community members launch a new, or expand an existing, local project that supports an area of STEAM education, environmental sustainability,

economic development or community prosperity.

Everyone is invited to join, either in person or virtually, for the launch event at the Gilliam and Bisbee Building in Heppner from noon to 1 p.m. on April 5 to learn more about the funding available and to celebrate each local community. Lunch and beverages will be provided.

For additional information or to register for the event, visit <https://ti.to/changexevents/aws-incommunities-morrow-county-fund>.

Open house for school bond measure scheduled

An open house will be held for the Morrow County School District bond measure on Thursday, April 7 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Gilliam and Bisbee Build-

ing in Heppner. There will be important information available to help the community better understand the bond. Refreshments and snacks will be served.

Good News Only

By Doris Brosnan
Kelsey Wolff Power, daughter of Tom and Karen Wolff, has passed on a geography lesson that might be surprising to many of us: "Toronto, Canada, lies farther south than all of Montana." (Sure, check it out in your atlas.) Kelsey knows this because she and her lawyer husband, Steve, live in Toronto, where she is pursuing her art and can be followed @wolffpowerart on Instagram. Kelsey has also been pleased that signs of spring are returning to Toronto.

Have to admit to feeling disappointed when the week had passed, and more good news had not come this way. Maybe next week.

Just a little food for thought since we have time on our hands, from a reliable source: A cat has 32 muscles in each ear. A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

Obviously, only "good news" contributions result in a "Good News" column for all of us to enjoy, so we hope you will send your contributions to dbrosnan123@gmail.com or call 541-223-1490. Smiles can go such a long way in lifting our spirits.

Here's hoping that some good news comes to everyone reading this.

Death Notices

Carolyn M. Hall — Carolyn M. Hall passed away March 20, 2022, at Good Shepherd Hospital in Hermiston at the age of 84. She was born March 5, 1938.

DEADLINE:
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