Division of Extension & Engagement
OSU Policy Analysis Laboratory

Oregon State University
Extension and Engagement

OPAL | Oregon State University Policy Analysis Lab

EVIDENCE IN THE ROOM: TURNING RESEARCH INTO POLICY

Oregon State University

Welcome & Introductions

Oregon State University Extension and Engagement

OPAL Oregon State University Policy Analysis Lab



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Who is in the room? Show of hands:

- Decisionmakers
- Researchers
- Communicators
- Other?

Motivation

- OSU's strategic plan --> "Prosperity Widely Shared"
- Government agencies doing more with less
- Cross-institution partnerships (OSU; UO; PSU)

We are committed to identifying evidence-based solutions to pressing public problems in partnership with local communities.

THREE GOALS

OREGON STATE WILL BE:

A university focused on big discoveries that drive big solutions.

A university where every student graduates.

A university that fuels a thriving world.

How do you define and use "research"?

Thinking broadly:

- What does "research" mean for you and/or your organization?
- What purpose(s) does research serve?
- How do you typically use research results?

10 minutes:

Start with a pair-and-share, then share out in small groups

Community-Engaged Research at OSU

Engagement Continuum



	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Co-Create
Research activities might look like:	• Stakeholder analysis • Secondary data analysis • Contributing expertise to a community research project	• Case studies • Community needs assessment/asset inventory • Utilizing community feedback to inform research design	• Citizen science • Convening stakeholders on a research issue • Demonstration projects	• Cooperation with community partners to identify research priorities • Joint problem-solving initiatives • Partnership for program evaluations	• Community-based participatory research • Community partners as co-authors/co-presenters • Co-founding a venture with community partners
Value to the community might include:	• Access to new information that can be applied to a need, problem, or opportunity	• Improved knowledge, recommendations, and outcomes • Mutual respect, demonstrated & sustained • Enhanced resources from sharing • Discovery of new funding opportunities		• New perspectives • Capacity-building • Empowered communities • Enhanced trust of university	

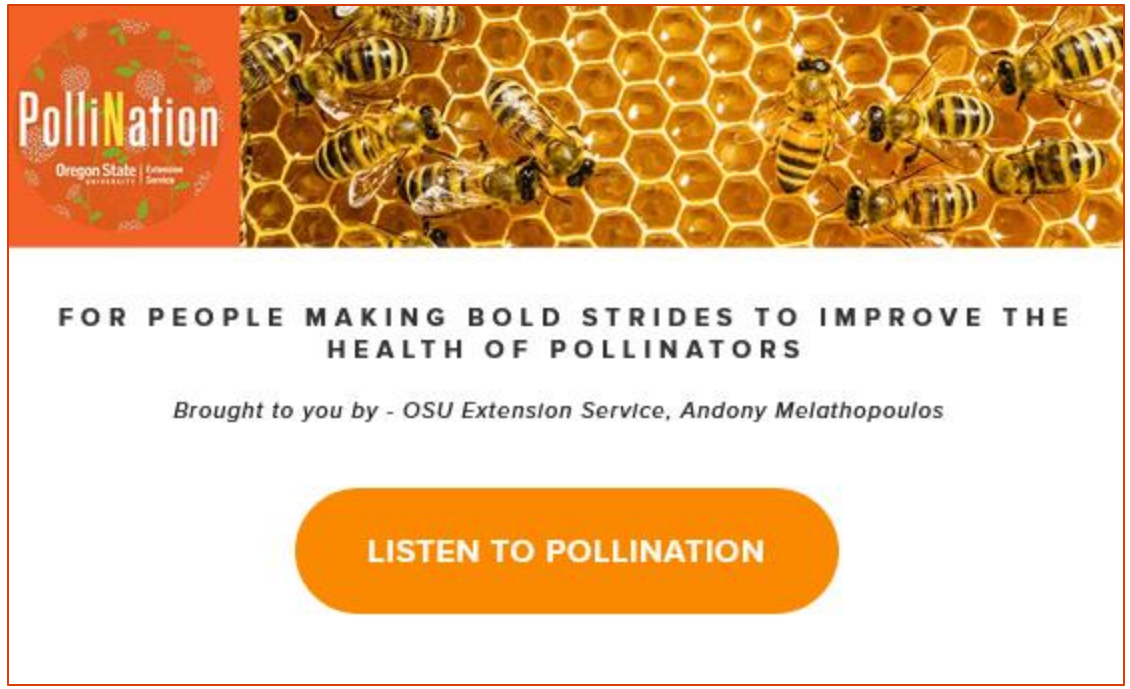
Transactional & unidirectional → **Reciprocal & mutually beneficial**

Adapted from the International Association for Public Participation IAP2 and Colorado State University.

The Oregon Bee Project

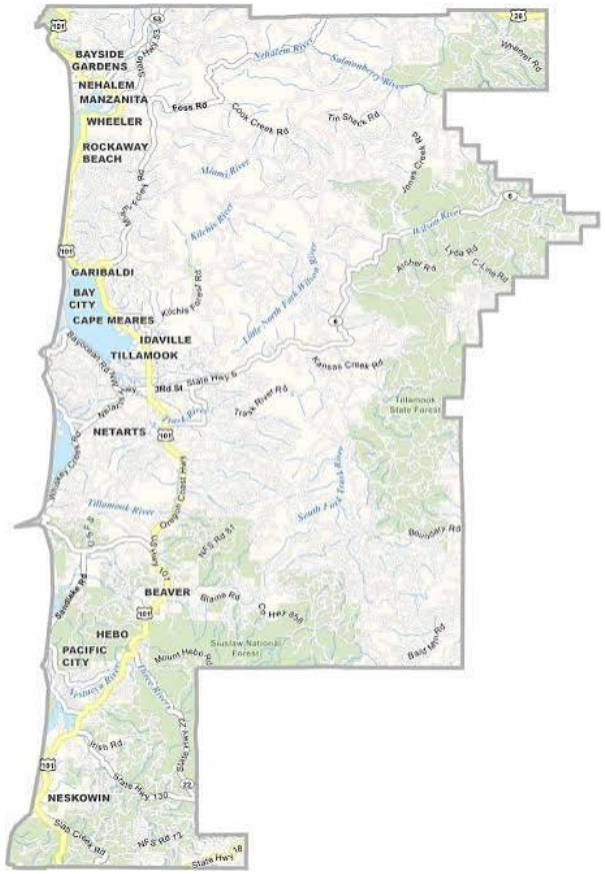
Research and Resources

- PolliNation
- Bee Friendly Wine
- Bee Stewards Excellence Award
- Flagship Farms
- Oregon Bee Atlas
- Master Beekeper Program



Tillamook County Community Visioning Project

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2020 Applied Research Project

- Tillamook County Futures Council
- Collaboration between OPAL, OSU Extension and Engagement, and Tillamook County community
- Mixed methods
  - Survey (paper and on-line)
  - Interviews
- Products included detailed report and Journal of Extension article

Steps in the 2020 Tillamook County Visioning Process	Voice and Responsibility: Oregon State University ⟷ Community
1. Determine goals of visioning work	
2. Develop methods	
3. Develop instruments	
4. Collect Data	
5. Public outreach	
6. Analyze Data	
7. Interpret Data	
8. Critically reflect	
9. Create report	
10. Create public products	
11. Disseminate findings	
12. Create community vision	

Oregon State University College of Engineering

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Plastics-to-Fuels Project



- Onion growers in Malheur County use irrigation drip tape to conserve water, reduce erosion and runoff, and minimize fertilizer needs.
- Drip tape is a single-use plastic with few disposal options
- Pyrolysis can turn drip tape into fuel
- College of Engineering and OSU Extension Experiment Station working with local farmers to develop pyrolysis-supported options







Plastic Waste is collected



Plastic cut to increase packing density



Plastic is heated in the reactor to ~460C



Final Diesel Product at 5-7 hours

Oregon Safety Net Map

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Location Information

Location Name: Harney County Health Clinic

Adress: 235 S Broadway Ave, Burns, OR 97720

Hours: M-F 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Notes on Hours:

Location Description: Main site for Harney County Health Clinic, serving Burns and surrounding communities.

Accepting New Applications: Yes

Accessibility Accommodation:

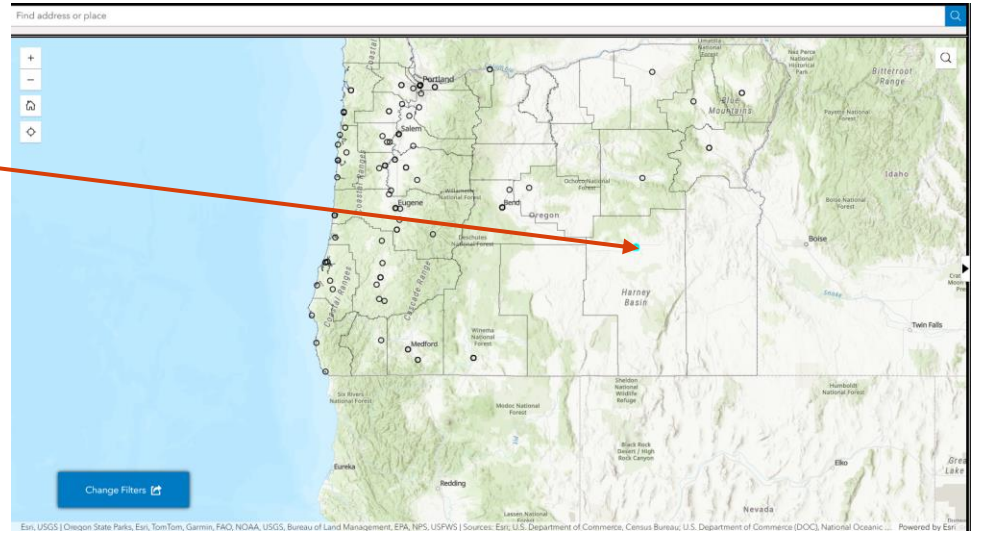
Location Email:

Location Website: https://www.harneyclinic.org

Location Phone: (541) 555-0157

Last Updated: 8/10/26, 11:21 PM

Location Page | Service Page | Organization Page



- Under construction: database and map of safety net resources using “scraping” tools to populate underlying database
- Inspired by Benton County Safety Net Database project, Oregon Food Bank Food Finder and ongoing discussions with Oregon Emergency Management leadership
- Ultimately, will develop two versions for use by: 1) public officials; and 2) general public.



Malheur Works

- FT paid internships
- Professional development
- Mentorship from community professionals





Collaborative Effort Between:

FRONTIER STEM HUB
SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING MATH

MALHEUR EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

Oregon State University Extension Service Malheur County

Salem/Cherriots Benefit-Cost Analysis

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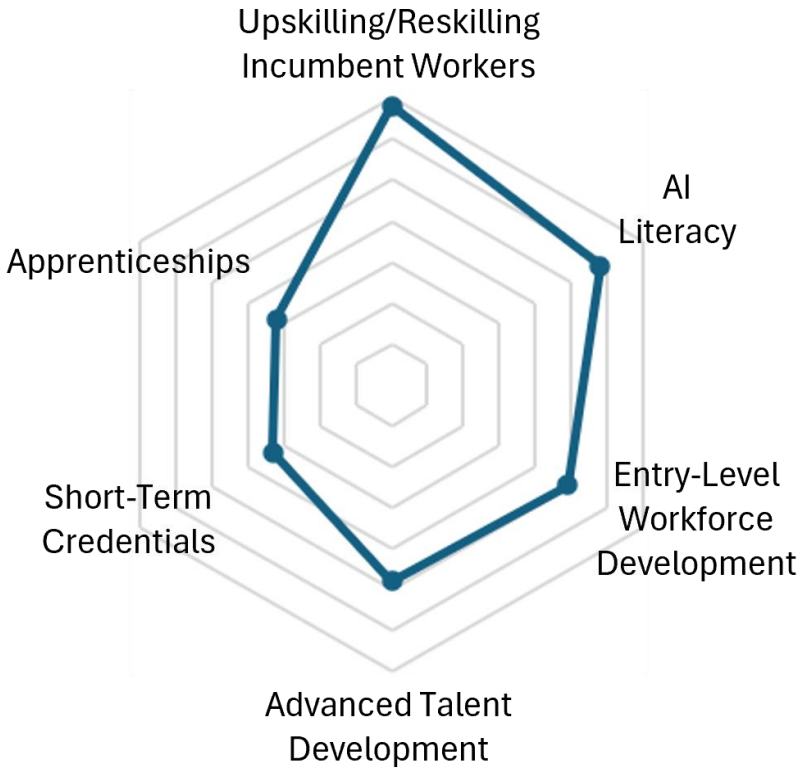
MPP students and faculty conducted a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of proposed service enhancements for the Salem-Keizer transit system.

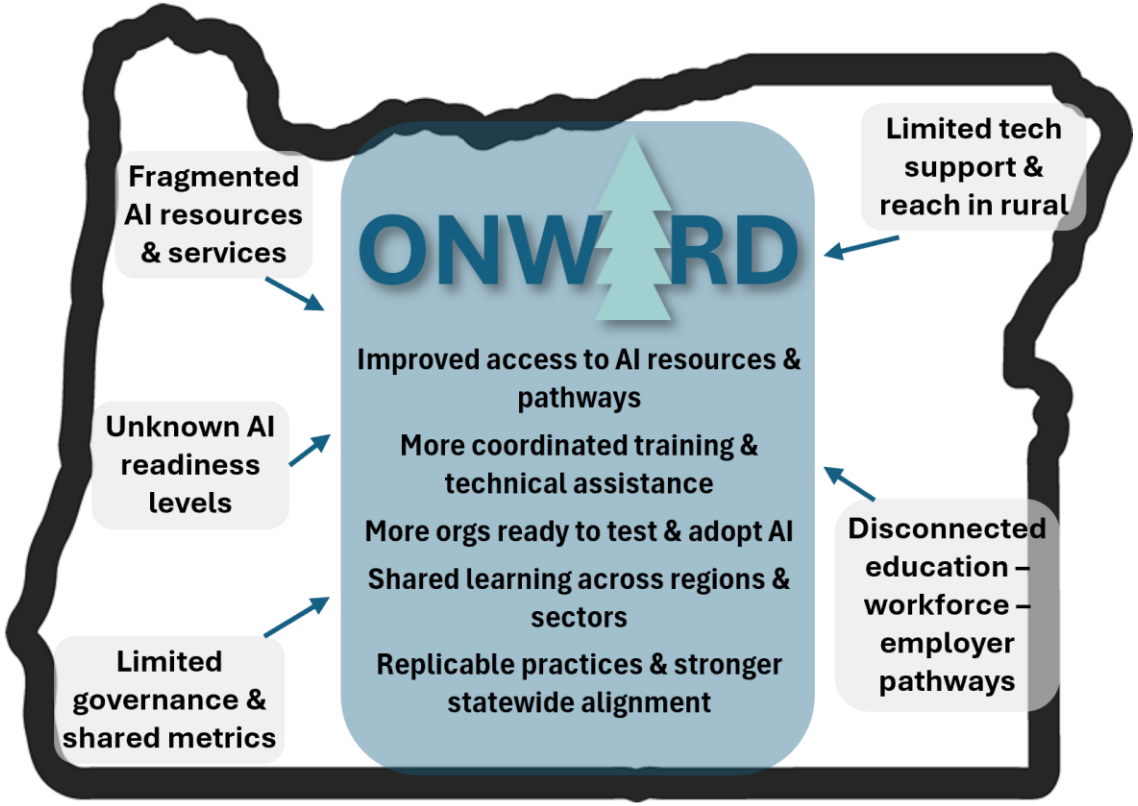
Key Findings

	Real values (2026 $s)		Nominal values	
	NPV=2.0%	NPV=3.1%	NPV=3.4%	NPV=4.1%
Option 1: All costs				
Social Benefits	$160,024,303	$147,773,248	$253,463,359	$240,202,633
Costs	$254,822,555	$234,776,879	$387,403,743	$365,742,136
Net Social Benefits	($94,798,252)	($87,003,631)	($133,940,384)	($125,539,504)
Benefit-cost ratio	0.63	0.63	0.65	0.66
Option 2: Costs excluding infrastructure improvements				
Social Benefits	$160,024,303	$147,773,248	$253,463,359	$240,202,633
Costs	$224,675,390	$206,281,630	$359,334,354	$338,628,263
Net Social Benefits	($64,651,087)	($58,508,381)	($105,870,995)	($98,425,631)
Benefit-cost ratio	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.71

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY 8

ONWARD - AI Workforce Readiness Hub





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tao

Oregon STEM

Mt. Hood Community College

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

What is Your Typical Approach?

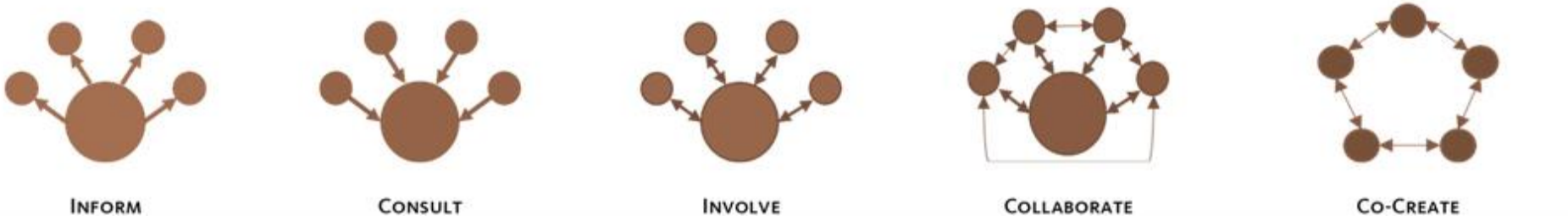
Reflect and identify on the continuum (5 min):

- How have you typically engaged with OSU, other higher education institutions, and/or other partners to meet your research needs?
- How have you partnered with OSU in the past? (if applicable)
- Where would you like to be on the continuum?

Discuss your responses in small groups (10 min)

Share out with large group (5 min)

Where do you want to be?



Research activities might look like:

Value to the community:

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Closing and Thank You

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On your way out --> sticky notes on flipcharts

- What kinds of research do you need?
- What gets in the way of partnering with OSU and other institutions on policy-relevant research?
- What would facilitate effective University-City partnerships?

For more information, contact us!

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Oregon State University