



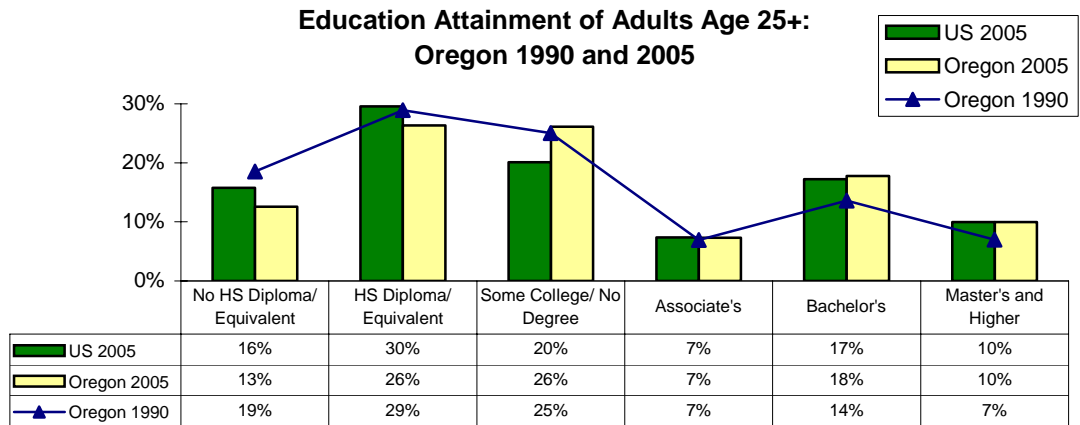
Date: April 9, 2007  
 To: Members, House Education Workforce and Economic Development Committee  
 From: Cam Preus-Braly, Commissioner  
 Re: Responses to Questions from Committee Members 1/17/07

**Education Attainment**

1. Representative Lim requested information on current educational attainment in Oregon.

Oregon's level of educational attainment has risen in the last 15 years, and is better than the U.S. average in most categories. Since 1990, the percent of Oregonians with less than a high school diploma has dropped from 19% to 13%. During the same period, the percentage of Oregonians with an associate's degree or higher has risen from 28% to 35%. See figure 1.

**Figure 1**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey

**Family/Living Wage**

2. *Family/Living Wage definition*

The living wage shown in chart 2 is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to support their family, if they are the sole provider and are working full-time (2080 hours per year).

The state minimum wage is the same for all individuals, regardless of how many dependents they may have.

The poverty rate is typically quoted as gross annual income. We have converted it to an hourly wage for the sake of comparison.

Wages that are less than the living wage are shown in bold.



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Chart 2

	One Adult	One Adult, One Child	Two Adults	Two Adults, One Child	Two Adults, Two Children
Living Wage (per hour)	\$7.61	\$14.47	\$11.12	\$16.51	\$20.82
<b>Minimum Wage (per hour)</b>	<b>\$6.50</b>	<b>\$6.50</b>	<b>\$6.50</b>	<b>\$6.50</b>	<b>\$6.50</b>
<b>Poverty Wage (per hour)</b>	<b>\$4.73</b>	<b>\$6.38</b>	<b>\$6.03</b>	<b>\$7.43</b>	<b>\$9.39</b>

### Typical Hourly Wage

These are the typical hourly rates for various professions in this region.

Wages that are below the living wage for one adult supporting one child is shown in bold.

Occupational Area	Typical Hourly Wage
Architecture & Engineering	\$26.38
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media	\$16.01
<b>Building &amp; Grounds Cleaning &amp; Maintenance</b>	<b>\$9.48</b>
Business & Financial	\$21.80
Community & Social Services	\$15.54
Computer & Mathematical	\$21.36
Construction & Extraction	\$18.84
Education, Training, & Library	\$19.42
<b>Farming, Fishing, &amp; Forestry</b>	<b>\$8.59</b>
Food Preparation & Service-Related	<b>\$7.45</b>
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$21.39
<b>Healthcare Support</b>	<b>\$10.42</b>
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	\$17.11
Legal	\$25.75
Life, Physical, & Social Science	\$19.70
Management	\$30.57
<b>Office &amp; Administrative Support</b>	<b>\$12.62</b>
<b>Personal Care &amp; Service</b>	<b>\$8.80</b>
<b>Production</b>	<b>\$14.19</b>
Protective Service	\$15.15
<b>Sales &amp; Related</b>	<b>\$9.95</b>
<b>Transportation &amp; Material Moving</b>	<b>\$12.40</b>

The [Living Wage Calculator](#), [Community Economic Toolbox](#), and [Poverty in America website](#) were created by [West Arete Computing](#), a company that specializes in creating web applications.

## Skilled Workforce

### 3. *What is the skilled workforce definition?*

High-wage (above the median wage) and high-demand (above the median number of total projected openings) is the skilled workforce definition.

## Workforce Response Teams

### 4. *Representative Dillum requested information on Workforce Response Teams(WRT).*

#### **The Employer Workforce Training Fund: Workforce Response Teams**

The Employer Workforce Training Fund (EWTF) was established by Executive Order to support the retention and growth of living wage jobs, a skilled workforce, and competitive businesses in Oregon. The EWTF supports training of current /incumbent workers, for growing businesses, training initiatives for industry associations and strategic economic clusters, and initiatives designed by business-labor consortia. Funds are available at the regional levels.

- On the regional level, projects are prioritized and funds awarded through local Workforce Response Teams (WRTs) located in each workforce region.
- WRTs are formed by and with the collective partners in a process that insures that each organization or entity is actively engaged in determining the regional formation, composition, responsibility, and operational functions and practices of the WRT. There should be a conscious effort to empower the team to discuss approaches to linking economic and workforce development in the regions to address employer and current worker needs.

#### The Role of the WRT:

- To provide a single point of contact and a quick turnaround for existing businesses and their workforce needs;
- To set regional funding priorities; and
- To identify appropriate projects for funding businesses and eligible associations by:
- Utilizing data and statewide policies to determine the strategic focus of the training funds;
- Developing the criteria and methodology for awarding funds to regional businesses and associations that meet the criteria of the EWTF guidelines and regional strategic priorities;
- Developing strategies to work with multiple employers in a sector and/or cluster to maximize regional and statewide impacts;
- Communicating and being responsible to the designated administrative and/or fiscal agent for reporting requirements and the notification for awarding funds; and
- Communicating to regional partners the status of the award process and the recipients of the funds.

#### Annual WRT Investment Plan Includes:

- Analysis of the Regional Economy
- Identification of Priorities for Investment
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of previously awarded projects.