



Extension Reconsidered

Building New Partnerships in Oregon
by Charles Robinson



OVERVIEW

In 2014, Oregon State University was one of 12 universities that took part in a national Imagining America initiative that invited citizens to imagine and consider new ways for Cooperative Extension to serve as a vital resource for communities in the 21st century.

In 2015, OSU took this model and expanded it, continuing the mission of “ExtRe” by seeking new partnerships, both on and off campus.

DESIGN

ExtRe is a directed and intentional dialogue about the role Extension can play in Oregon. Each year it convenes a group of Extension staff, OSU faculty, and community members around a specific theme and set of questions.



2014 - the Arts, Humanities & Design

The focus of ExtRe14 was a day-long forum focused on the role for OSU Extension in art, humanities and design and their potential for community revitalization in Oregon.

Partners included: the College of Liberal Arts, Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, the College of Forestry, College of Agricultural Sciences, SeaGrant, Metropolitan Group, Linn-Benton Community College, Majestic Theater, Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Humanities, Corvallis Arts Center

45 partners

2015 - Humanitarian Engineering

This year in ExtRe15 we shifted from art to engineering, seeking specifically to explore connections and solutions within the growing field of Humanitarian Engineering (HE). We define HE as the co-development of science- or engineering-based solutions to improve the human condition, namely through improved access to basic human needs (e.g., clean water, clean energy), an improved quality of life, or improved level of community resilience (e.g., disaster mitigation, economic resilience).

Partners included: the College of Engineering, Engineers Without Borders, Center for Latino Studies, Oregon Regional Solutions Network, Green Empowerment, Aprovecho, Center for STEM Learning, College of Forestry, Center for Environmental Sciences, City of Prineville, New Media Communications, Juntos.

40 partners

RESULTS

ExtRe has been a great success for Oregon and for Extension. It has created two yearly communities of practice of invested thinkers and doers from across campus and the state of Oregon, united around the goal of improving the lives of Oregonians through innovation.

Some outcomes of ExtRe include:

The Forest of the Arts (2014)

The State of the Coast conference (2014-15)

The College of Liberal Arts Arts Engagement Award (2014)

OSU Community Arts Studio engagement course (2015)

The Creative Forest series of coursework (2015-16)

The Forestry Professional Program Co-op (2015)

...and more!

CITATIONS

Imagining America. *Extension Reconsidered Initiative*. <http://imaginingamerica.org/research/extension-reconsidered-initiative/>

Boyer, Ernest et al. *Scholarship Reconsidered: Priorities of the Profession*. Joyess-Bass, 2015.

Lave, Jean and Etienne Wenger. *Situated Learning: Legitimate Peripheral Participation*. Cambridge, 1990.

