

# CASCADIA INNOVATION CORRIDOR

INVENTING  
TOMORROW  
TOGETHER



## Best and Diverse Talent Committee

Co-Chairs: Amy Morrison, President, Lake Washington Institute of Technology, WA & Tom Roemer, Vice President, Academic, British Columbia Institute of Technology, BC

### Committee Members:

|                   |    |   |
|-------------------|----|---|
| Nagi Naganathan   | OR | President, Oregon Institute of Technology                                       |
| Edoardo De Martin | BC | General Manager, Microsoft Vancouver  |
| Mark Mitsui       | OR | Chancellor, Portland Community College  |
| Nate Humphrey     | WA | Workforce Director, Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges |

### Action Plan:

#### 1. List & briefly explain your committee's 1-3 "Big Ideas":

##### **A. Open Multi-Disciplinary Credentials.**

Industry has identified a growing need for multidisciplinary and customizable education that allows current and prospective employees to select and combine courses that relate directly to specific career paths, and that better allow the recognition of practical skills, in particular those acquired outside the academic realm. We believe a regional approach is warranted.

We will propose a framework of credentials that are:

- Multi-disciplinary and customizable, i.e. learners can choose courses from different schools and departments across the Cascadia region;
- Flexible in delivery – both with respect to times and methodologies – to cater to the needs of career professionals;
- Applied and directly applicable to the workplace;
- Open for the recognition of prior learning, practical skills and unique experience;
- Suited for long-term professional development across the entire Cascadia region.

##### **B. Emerging Leaders of Cascadia**

To protect sustainable leaderships for the Cascadia region, we will need individuals who not only believe in the potential in trans-border collaboration but who also can become advocates for the cause. These advocates will be served by a solid understanding of the Cascadia context, including:

- Geography
- History and demographics

- Political systems
- Indigenous history and culture
- Sustainability issues
- Transportation and logistics
- Basic economics
- Examples of economic mega-regions and cross-border initiatives from around the world

Similar to the Canadian federal government’s initiative “Emerging Leaders of the Americas”, we propose a short-term certificate “Emerging Leaders of Cascadia” that provides broad and useful knowledge on both the Cascadia region and the concept of our Innovation Corridor.

The coursework could be jointly developed and shared through Open Access, and delivered by various institutions. The credential will carry the same name at each institution and will be issued by the institution where the student obtained at least 50% of their credits. Common courses from other institutions automatically incur transfer credit.

The stipulation is that a student needs to take at least one course at each of the Institutes in Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.

### **C. *Leverage Shared Industry Partnerships***

To conduct research and development, to provide training to reduce time between research breakthroughs and implementation, and shorten a talent pipeline training cycle. We propose a Cascadia network of facilities.

This could be a partnership with the following centers:

- Advanced Technology Centers in Washington State and Oregon.
- BCIT’s Building Science Centre, and its MAKE+ initiative stemming from their Applied Research Centre CARI.
- Manufacturing and Innovation Research Center in Oregon, led by Oregon Institute of Technology and Portland Community College.

The goal of this initiative would be to have research and development and training regionally available so opportunity is there for companies to see breakthrough capabilities; and, support research and development breakthroughs and train future industry leaders at Cascadia Innovation Corridor facilities with involvement from major corporations like The Boeing Company and Microsoft.

## **2. Describe the context in which your Big Ideas will be implemented (current state of the industry, challenges being faced by organizations, how our region currently operates in this field, etc.)**

With the Cascadia Innovation Corridor as the catalyst, BCIT, LWTech, and OregonTech have been working together to find areas of collaboration and innovation. A MOU is already in place and cross-institutional teams are working on areas of partnership to include degree articulation, applied research, and the exploration of a common degree.

This partnership can serve as the launching off point for partnerships with area community colleges and industry partners.

**3. Briefly describe how the realization of your ideas would impact life in Cascadia:**

Industry would have access to an aligned training system for best and diverse talent and strategic workforce development.

Learners would be able to continue their education independent of where they are deployed for work.

The understanding of educational, applied research, and talent development opportunities throughout the corridor for students, industry, and educational institutions.

**4. What major milestone can be accomplished by 2021 and announced/recognized at the centennial celebration of the Peace Arch? What interim milestones must be reached between now and 2021?**

| <b>Milestone</b> | <b>Description/notes</b>   | <b>Timeline</b>             | <b>Owner(s)</b>                          |
|------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Milestone 1      | Announcement of a joint credential between LWTECH, BCIT, OIT and potentially others.               | Fall 2020                   | Amy, Nagi, Tom                           |
| Milestone 2      | Framework for the Emerging Leaders Cascadia credential, using institutions from around the region. | Summer 2020                 | Amy, Nagi, Tom                           |
| Milestone 3      | Launch of the Emerging Leaders Credential.   | Peace Arch Celebration 2021 | Presidents from at least 6 institutions. |
| Milestone 4      | Launch of open multi-disciplinary credential framework in a Cascadia context.                      | Peace Arch Celebration 2021 | Presidents from at least 6 institutions. |