



## August 2008

### Coming OWIC events:

**September 22-23 : Lumber Quality & Process Control, Corvallis**

**September 24-25 : Lumber Quality Leadership, Corvallis**

**October 22-23: NE Utility Pole Conference, Binghamton, NY**

**December 8-11: How to Dry Lumber for Quality and Profit Corvallis, OR**

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# David Smith joins the Wood Science & Engineering faculty

David Smith has had the opportunity to witness and participate in a lot of change in the forest products industry during his career. His work as a wood technologist and process manager in sawmills, pulp, paper, plywood, particleboard, and MDF plants has presented many demanding and rewarding challenges. During this time he's seen companies and plants come and go, technology constantly evolve, and pressures on the timber resource base continuously increase. These trends will only intensify in the future.

David joined the Wood Science and Engineering Faculty in July with the goal of providing insight to the next generation of scientists and professionals that will take on the responsibility of fashioning better ways to use the world's forest resources to solve important problems.

As an Instructor in Wood Products Manufacturing, David will be working with Dr. Jeff Morrell to co-teach the WSE senior projects course in the fall, then handling WSE 452 "Process Control in the Forest Products Industry" winter term. David

looks forward to working with our students as an advisor to undergraduates and the student chapter of the Forest Products Society. David will also be working in the Wood Innovation



Center to better connect our students and department with industry, and industry with the College's resources. David will also be the primary contact for job and internship placement for the Wood Science and Engineering students.

David's credentials include a BS degree in Wood and Fiber Science and an MS in Wood Technology, both from the University of Washington, and over 35 years of industry experience. For the past 10 years David has been working as a

consulting engineer to provide project planning and process optimization services to the forest products industry through Evergreen Engineering in Eugene OR. Before that, he spent 10 years with Willamette Industries working on the design, construction, and operation of particleboard, MDF, LVL, and plywood plants. He has also worked for Plum Creek Timber Company, Weyerhaeuser, ITT Rayonier, International Paper, and Washington Iron Works.

David can be reached at 541-737-8506 or [David.Smith@oregonstate.edu](mailto:David.Smith@oregonstate.edu). Jobs and internships can be posted at <http://owic.oregonstate.edu/jobs/form.php>.

# Enhancing Innovation in Oregon's Forest Cluster: A Proposal to the Oregon Innovation Council

The Oregon Innovation Council (Oregon InC) was created by the Governor and Oregon Legislature in 2005 to lead Oregon's innovation strategy; the council's mission is to "identify Oregon's top innovation-driven growth opportunities, maximize the state's competitive advantages and establish Oregon's niche in the global economy" (<http://www.oregoninc.org/>). Oregon InC issued a request for proposals in the spring of 2008 for innovative projects to improve the competitiveness of established industries. In total, the council received 9 proposals; 4 were forwarded for further consideration, only one of which is a new initiative – and that initiative is for Oregon's forest cluster.

OWIC staff along with other faculty in the College of Forestry led submission of a comprehensive proposal requesting \$3.7 million over the 2009-11 biennium. Oregon's forest industry has provided key input and strong support for the proposal, both via individual companies as well as various industry organizations. The Established Industries committee forwarded the proposal to the full council with a budget request for \$2.6 million (project deliverables were scaled back to meet the reduced budget). In early September, the full council will vote to determine if the initiative will be recommended to the legislature for funding in the next session.

The proposal includes 3 integrated

projects focused on enhancing innovation across Oregon's forest cluster:

1. Center for Intensive Planted-Forest Silviculture – funds will jumpstart this center with a vision of developing and maintaining a comprehensive, science-based decision-support system for intensive silviculture of planted forests in Oregon.
2. Center for Forest Transportation – this new center will address spiraling fuel costs, increase cost competitiveness, improve safety, and increase environmental performance through collaborative research projects in four focus areas: woody material transport vehicle configurations, forest road construction practices, forest road maintenance practices, and transportation and fleet management.
3. Commercialization and Market Research Laboratory – this lab will build the capacity of the Oregon Wood Innovation Center to conduct market assessments for new products (or existing products into new markets), provide assessments for Oregon firms to enter international markets, provide a facility for end-user research for new product development and prototype testing of value-added products, and enable linkages with other sectors (e.g., high-tech and green building).

We believe strengths of the proposal include:

- Comprehensive and integrated – addresses the full forestry value chain: forest management, transportation of logs and finished products, and production and marketing of innovative value-added products.
- Focused on crucial industry sector – forestry is Oregon's dominant established industry and is particularly critical to rural Oregon; these efforts are strongly focused on job retention.
- Complementary w/other state efforts – as examples, transportation research is needed to improve the economic feasibility of biofuels production; new product development and testing assistance are key for successful commercialization of bio-based products; both examples complement work that will be done at Oregon's new Built Environment & Sustainable Technologies (BEST) signature research center.
- Collaborative – the proposal was developed with input from dozens of firms in Oregon's forest cluster and the Forest Cluster Strategy Project team. The Forest Cluster Strategy Project Team is an inter agency group including personnel from the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Forest Resources Institute, and Oregon Eco-

**The Oregon Wood Innovation Center**  
Connecting people, ideas, resources

# Enhancing Forest Cluster Innovation cont.

conomic & Community Development Department.

- Focused on impact – the three projects are focused on providing both immediate returns as

well as long-term capacity building to ensure the economic and environmental sustainability of Oregon’s forest sector.

We’ll keep you posted as we learn

more from Oregon InC. If you have questions about the proposal or want more information, contact Scott Leavengood at 541-737-4212 or [Scott.Leavengood@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Scott.Leavengood@oregonstate.edu).

# Opportunity to Comment on USGBC Certified Wood Revisions

The US Green Building Council (USGBC) has opened a 30-day public comment period for proposed revisions regarding how points are awarded for certified wood use in the LEED green building rating system. Public comments are being sought on two specific topics: 1) the proposed

revisions to the credit’s intent and requirements and 2) the criteria proposed in the USGBC Forest Certification System Benchmark.

The Public Comment Period ends Sunday, September 7, 5:00 PDT.

You can comment by visiting <http://www.usgbc.org/LEED/LEED-Drafts/RatingSystemVersions.aspx?CMSPageID=1458>.

Are you an employer looking to hire qualified students?

Post a position on our jobs board: <http://owic.oregonstate.edu/jobs/form.php>

To subscribe to this newsletter send an email to Chris Knowles with “subscribe to newsletter” in the subject line.

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