



Project 2059/DemocracyLab
Media Release - Draft
March 17, 2009

DemocracyLab Kicks-off Oregon 150's Youth Legacy Project 2059

Oregon 150, DemocracyLab and the Chalkboard Project have teamed up to create an online think tank. It's a pioneering opportunity to use the internet to harness the thinking of Oregonians from all corners of our state to collaboratively create a vision of Oregon's future.

Project 2059 is asking high school students to create a collective vision for Oregon in 2059, the bicentennial year, by considering issues that will shape our state over the next 50 years. DemocracyLab is dedicated to public policy issue collaboration and consensus-building which allows students to use the innovative DemocracyLab technology to present their ideas and priorities and to identify the best thinking of their peers.

"This is a great way for students to demonstrate that they are not just young people still learning. Rather, that they are a powerful force, a generation of people who want to help reshape politics and policy to make Oregon a safer, sustainable, and more livable place," says Henry Balensifer, who is the youngest member of the Oregon 150 Board and Chair of its Youth Legacy Projects.

Please visit: <http://democracylab.project2059.org/>

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About Oregon 150

On March 13, 2007, Gov. Ted Kulongoski launched preparations for the 150th anniversary of Oregon's admittance into the Union. The celebration began Feb. 14, 2009, and will last through the fall of 2009. "The sesquicentennial will be a unique opportunity to honor our past and all of the people who created the quilt of natural beauty, urban and rural communities, diverse economy, and original thinking that we call Oregon," the governor said. To prepare for Oregon's 150th birthday, the governor created Oregon 150, a nonprofit organization led by motivated citizen volunteers from across the state who serve as its Board of Directors. The mission of Oregon 150 is to inspire people across the state to remember, experience and celebrate Oregon and, together, create a robust and sustainable future. The sesquicentennial will involve Oregonians from all walks of life — all ages, income levels, and ethnic backgrounds, new and longtime residents, rural and urban.

Oregon 150 announced it now has more than 100 Official Partners across the state organizing sesquicentennial activities. Recent additions include Baker County, Salem's Multicultural Institute, and the Illinois Valley Community Development Organization.

In addition an online store was launched February 14, 2009 at www.oregon150.org to sell sesquicentennial merchandise to support its efforts.

About DemocracyLab

DemocracyLab is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded with the goal of creating a virtual community dedicated to improving the democratic process and producing collaborative solutions to public policy problems. DemocracyLab was founded in the summer of 2006, and has developed with the help of a dedicated team of volunteers and the support of Oregon State University's Open Source Lab (OSL). To learn more about DemocracyLab, visit www.democracylab.org.

About Chalkboard Project

Launched in early 2004, Chalkboard Project exists to inspire Oregonians to do what it takes to make the state's K-12 public schools among the nation's best, while strengthening our school system's financial accountability to taxpayers. Chalkboard aims to help create a more informed and engaged public, and to enable statewide programs that can be applied at the local level to improve school quality, accountability, and funding. It also has partnered with other education organizations to create the Open Books Web site to track school district spending, student achievement data, details on teachers and the community are all available and easier to get, understand and compare than ever. Visit the new Open Books Project website, www.openbooksproject.org.

For more information about Chalkboard and to learn how to get involved, call (877) YOUR-K12 or visit www.chalkboardproject.org.