Community Profile

Population  7,500 (Lake County)
Location    Lakeview

Position Description

Sponsor    Lake County Development and the CORE Collaborative
Supervisor  Ronne Lindsay, Business Manager

Assignment  This is one of five RARE positions sponsored by the CORE Collaborative. CORE, which stands for Connecting Oregon for Rural Entrepreneurship, is a collaboration funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and spearheaded by Oregon’s Rural Development Initiatives. While each of the five RARE assignments will vary based on the needs of the specific communities, all CORE positions will share a focus on creating and sustaining entrepreneur development systems in economically distressed target areas. In Lake County, the RARE participant will help coordinate an existing advisory board, organize and help facilitate workshops and trainings, support a youth entrepreneurship program in two local high schools, and work with a contractor to publicize local success stories. While local leaders and entrepreneurs will spearhead CORE’s regional efforts, a CORE Statewide Advisory Board will bring together diverse lessons learned to ultimately impact statewide policy change.

Required Skills  The ideal RARE participant needs strong organizational skills, people skills, and should be an effective communicator, both verbally and in writing. The participant should enjoy helping people, be a motivated self-starter, and should be capable of implementing plans.

RARE Participant

Kristen Coles, a native of Deer Park, WA, is a second year participant of the RARE program. She graduated from Washington State University with undergraduate degrees in wildlife management and Spanish. After graduation, Kristen went to Guatemala as a Peace Corps volunteer to work on eco-tourism and community development projects. When she returned to the U.S. in 2005, she worked for the Bureau of Land Management in Lake County before joining the RARE program. Now, as an experienced participant in the program, Kristen will use her skills in meeting coordination, facilitation, and training to support local entrepreneurs.