Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (CORE)

Community Profile

Population 48,300
Location Enterprise

Position Description

Sponsor Northeast Oregon Economic Development District and the CORE Collaborative
Supervisor Lisa Dawson, Executive Director

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 entrepreneurship development systems in economically distressed target areas. In Union, Baker, and Wallowa Counties, the RARE participant will work closely with the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District (NEOEDD) to host appropriate trainings on entrepreneurship, to support a youth entrepreneurship program with local high school students, to launch an outreach campaign, and to develop a “Business Bootcamp” curriculum. 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 RARE participant should have strong communication and organizational skills. The participant should be comfortable working as part of a team, should have strong customer service skills, but should also be able to work well independently and with little direction. The participant will need basic computer skills and the ability to think and write clearly. Experience in database management, research and data analysis skills, and experience in meeting facilitation would be helpful.

RARE Participant

Heather Gurewitz is entering a second year with the RARE program and NOEDD. She is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley with a bachelor of arts in geography. Before joining RARE, Heather had returned from two and a half years with the Peace Corps in Honduras and brings experience in ecotourism, rural community development, and strategic planning to the program. Before living and working in Honduras, Heather worked in Juneau, AK, as a planner for the Department of Transportation.