



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TEACHER PREP NEXT STEP FOR INNOVATING NEWBERG

Construct Foundation Leads Newberg Educators in Training for 21st Century Skills

PORTLAND, ORE. – FEBRUARY 19, 2018 – On Feb. 22-23, 2017, 20 teachers and staff from Newberg High School and middle schools will “Breakaway” for two days of intensive professional development learning a design-driven method for curriculum creation that builds a culture of innovation in their schools.

[Construct Foundation](#) has intentionally structured the Breakaway team training to link the middle schools’ curriculum to the high school and to directly lead into implementation of student-led design challenges during the 2017-2018 school year to complete the second phase of [Innovate Newberg](#).

Breakaway builds on the first phase of Innovate Newberg: a day-long Make-A-Thon on Jan. 27, which introduced students, educators and community members to coding, engineering, design, and prototype creation as well as the [School Retool](#) training that Newberg principals and assistant principals took in 2017.

“This is an exciting manifestation of what we all learned last year and agreed as a team was best for Newberg students,” said Karen Pugsley, principal at Chehalem Valley Middle School. “If we’re going to create a new norm, we need staff to experience for themselves how to teach from learner and facilitator perspectives.”

During the two-day workshops, teachers and staff develop their own practice as design innovators. Together they will build and co-facilitate student-centered, real-world design challenges that add relevancy and immediacy to learning. Afterwards, coaches continue working with a team of teachers from each of the schools. This shift from passive to active learning supports [21st Century teaching and learning](#) via Newberg School District’s 5Cs for student success: Critical thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, and Citizenship.

In the third and final phase, Newberg High School will build out the Agile Learning Laboratory, adding to the Integrated Design Studio and providing capacity for students in content area classes to undertake real-world design and build challenges often benefiting the entire community.

“Breakaway learning prepares students for today’s workforce. These teachers, supported by their administration, are leading the way to accelerate culture shift in their schools so



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that more students find their way to success and thrive after graduation,” said Gina Condon, founder of Construct Foundation. “Whether they stay in Newberg or leave, go to a college or go to a good job, this new way of learning will prepare them with the skills they need to succeed in whatever life path they choose.”

Innovate Newberg is [funded by a \\$50,000 grant](#) from the Oregon Community Foundation on behalf of the Austin Family Foundation, as well as other public-private partnerships, and is one of several communities participating in a daring challenge as an outcome of Innovate Oregon’s initiatives in the testbed of [Innovate Yamhill County](#).

Construct Foundation and [Innovate Oregon](#), alongside courageous teachers, school administrators, students and community partners, developed the three-phase [Innovate Initiative](#) toolkit to support under-resourced communities, both rural and urban, to modernize educational models to keep pace with the networked, global economy and to build resilience in their local community.

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ABOUT CONSTRUCT FOUNDATION

Construct Foundation exists to scale up innovative educational models and enable all Oregon kids and teachers to thrive today and tomorrow. Since 2013, Construct Foundation has partnered with teachers, education leaders, business and nonprofit professionals, and philanthropic organizations to foster innovative models of teaching and learning that prepare all young people for the new economy. Program partners have included [Stanford d.school’s K 12 Lab Network](#), [Breaker](#), [3 to PhD®](#), [KairosPDX](#), and [College Possible](#). For more information, visit www.constructfoundation.org. Connect with us on social media at @ConstructPDX.

ABOUT INNOVATE OREGON

Innovate Oregon began when Oregon’s technology industry realized that the homegrown, tech-ready workforce needed for our growing technology-based industries and businesses was sorely lacking. The [Technology Association of Oregon](#) rallied the industry and created Innovate Oregon to inspire new education models in our schools that use industry best practices in order to prepare a 21st century workforce, and to re-energize Oregonians’ can-do attitude and create a model of partnership, that will transform economic development in Oregon.