

America's Best Communities Contest Needs YOU!

BY **BETHANY WERTZ**, PROJECT MANAGER, ABC CONTEST

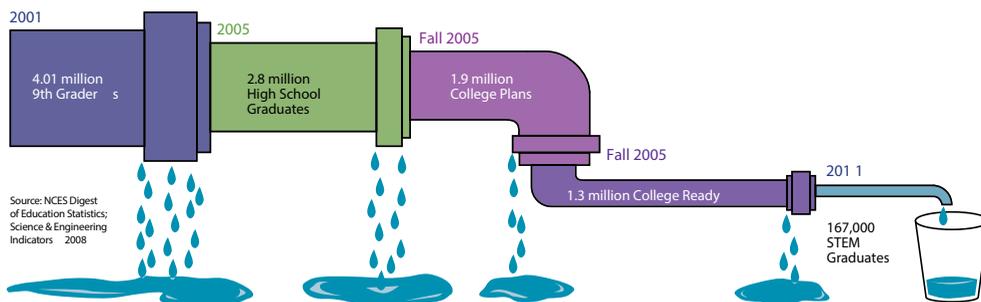
We Need YOU! Our individual community members, businesses, non-profits and community groups to help make our new Tualatin Mobile MakerSpace, and we only have months to do it! Our ABC (America's Best Community) Team is excited to create and implement an innovative Mobile MakerSpace for students K-12 grades, but we won't be able to do it without many of you stepping forward to help!

Please read on to find out WHY you might consider helping, HOW you can help, and WHO to contact! Let's have our community create Tualatin's Mobile MakerSpace TOGETHER! Your support will assure we have an even better chance of winning the first place prize in the ABC Contest (March 2017) and bringing home \$3 million for Tualatin! Although as we all know, the true "prize" comes from inspiring children through fun, STEAM-related projects and learning, and for area businesses and families who will reap these rewards with quality employees, better wages and stronger community.

According to presenters at a PCC-Sylvania MakerSpace tour we attended earlier this month, "Nationally, only 3% of 9th graders in high school will go on to get a college degree in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) related field. Our nation's 'pipeline' of students interested in STEM is 'leaking.'"

On this tour, one of PCC's presentation slides depicted students as "drops of water" in an "educational pipeline," which was leaking – it started with over 4 million students in 9th grade, and finished at a trickle with only 160,000+ obtaining a STEM-related degree

A Leaking STEM Pipeline



nationally. While these statistics are quite surprising to some, they were not to the people on this tour, especially the business leaders present – presidents and chief operating officers of area advanced manufacturing and engineering firms. During a roundtable talk they made very clear that they cannot find enough qualified workers to fill their business needs.

What can we do as a community to HELP FIX this leak and make our communities stronger? What can we do to REACH all children, kindergarten through high school, to spark their interests and inspire learning in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM)? What can we do to CONNECT our high school students to the possibilities and opportunities that these area businesses can provide in solid, well-paying, interesting jobs and careers?

Last month in Tualatin Life, you heard about our Tualatin community winning the semi-finalist round of the America's Best Communities competition. We became one of the "Elite 8" teams who each won \$100,000 for their communities to begin implementing on their submitted revitalization plans.

During this final phase of the contest, we have only 10 months to create and implement Tualatin's Mobile MakerSpace! While \$100,000 is a lot of money, we have a lot to pay for: a trailer, truck, staff to run and help build it, and the technical equipment and modular carts that will become the hands-on learning for students.

Thank you to our current partners assisting with these efforts – the City of Tualatin, the

Tigard- Tualatin School District (TTSD), Tualatin's Chamber of Commerce, Sunset Manufacturing, Mask and Mirror Community Theater, the South Metro/ Salem STEM Partnership, Oregon Tech and World of Speed – these last few based in Wilsonville- you don't have to be within the City of Tualatin to be a part of this innovative project!

The Tualatin ABC Core Team is: Mayor Lou Ogden, Linda Moholt (Tualatin Chamber), John Bartholomew (Mask & Mirror), Charlie Hopewell (Sunset Mfg.), Noelle Gorbett (TTSD), Jerianne Thompson (Tualatin Library), and Bethany Wurtz. There are also many important individuals who are working on this project as part of our larger Steering Committee.

How Can You Help?

If you have additional ideas, please let us know, but for now, these are our identified needs:

Summer 2016 outreach:

We want to start NOW, even before our Mobile MakerSpace is finished this fall, to reach children where they are – we're interested in help from volunteers who could staff booths at Tualatin summer events, camps and apartment complexes, to start kids off and spark interest in STEAM areas. This is a great opportunity for high school students who need volunteer hours!

Trailer:

Would a business want to BEGIN IT ALL! And donate one?

Truck:

To make the trailer (our MakerSpace) mobile?

Equipment:

In-kind or financial donations to begin



Jason Robertson (J.Robertson & Co.), Mayor Lou Ogden, Bethany Wurtz (Tualatin Tomorrow Advisory Committee, Tualatin ABC Project Manager), Sara Singer (J.Robertson & Co.), Linda Moholt (Tualatin Chamber of Commerce), Charlie Hopewell (Sunset Manufacturing Corp.), Candice Kelly (Tualatin Tomorrow Advisory Committee), John Bartholomew (Tualatin Tomorrow Advisory Committee, Mask & Mirror Community Theatre) & Charles Culkin (Frontier Communications).

purchasing modular carts which will contain the laptops, 3D printers, laser cutters, and hands-on STEAM projects, etc.

Media/Marketing efforts:

As part of the ABC contest, we need to provide them will raw video footage, blog postings, and quarterly reports. We would love assistance getting the word out about this project, for our summer events, and for keeping the public informed via social media.

Who Should I Contact? Please start with Bethany Wurtz, the new part-time project manager for the ABC contest and Tualatin Mobile MakerSpace development. You can reach her at 503-490-4883 or info@tualatinabc.org. You can also go to our website, www.tualatinabc.org for more information, or follow us on [Facebook/TualatinABC](https://www.facebook.com/TualatinABC), or Twitter/ [@TualatinABC](https://twitter.com/TualatinABC).

We are excited to make this happen for our community, from kids to businesses, from parents/ families to government and non-profits – all of whom make up Tualatin and can benefit! Let's DO THIS TOGETHER and create a stronger community by inspiring and making!