



OFFICE OF PRECOLLEGE PROGRAMS | OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

# Beaver Hangouts Newsletter



SPRING 2016

## Who are we?

Beaver Hangouts was created in 2012 to address educational equity issues facing students across Oregon. The pilot year had one coach connecting with two third grade classrooms. That year showed the impact that Beaver Hangouts has; both on K-12 students and college students. Since its inception, Beaver Hangouts has grown tremendously, with 50 OSU students serving over 800 youth during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Due to the success and growth of the program, we recently hired a new full time Precollege Programs Coordinator.

**Jean Garcia-Chitwood** will oversee Beaver Hangouts, as well as assist with coordinating our mobile STEM camps and work on building bridges between OSU and diverse communities.

Jean comes to us with a wealth of experience working with diverse students in a range of capacities spanning secondary and postsecondary education. She has served as the Director of an Upward Bound program, and has managed a K-12 STEM after school program while at Centro Cultural. In addition, she has experience creating summer bridge programs, such as Puentes while working at Portland Community College. Most recently she has led efforts with the Lincoln County School District to re-initiate a Dual Credit Program and in the creation of a new Early College program for high school Juniors and Seniors. Jean holds an MS in Post-Secondary Adult & Continuing Education from PSU and a PhD in Community College Leadership from OSU. Her dissertation topic was

"How do Community Colleges Create Programming for Rural Areas?" She has a passion for creating access for underserved communities into post-secondary education. She comes from a first generation, Latino migrant family.

### Coming Soon

We're in the process of creating a video to showcase Beaver Hangouts, how the sessions work, and the impact the program has on both OSU students and K-12 students.

New AmeriCorps coordinators will be taking over for Lindsey and Ellen at the beginning of August. In the meantime, feel free to contact Jean Garcia-Chitwood with any questions or to chat about Beaver Hangouts for next year!

### Contact Us

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# 2015-2016 Highlights

## Campus K12 Partnership Award

Beaver Hangouts was the recipient of the Campus K12 Partnership Award through Campus Compact of Oregon. The Campus K12 Partnership Award recognizes outstanding partnerships between institutions of higher education and K12 schools that produce measurable improvements, demonstrate a commitment to community, and enhance higher education and K12 outcomes. We would like to thank our dedicated coaches that keep the program running successfully and our school and non-profit partners that bring Beaver Hangouts to their classrooms.



## Coach Site Visits



A few lucky schools got to meet their coaches this term! Some coaches surprised their students to hold a Beaver Hangouts session in person. Others helped students work on a final project of designing their own dream college. Coaches were thrilled to have the opportunity to meet their students in person, and we hope to have more site visits next year.

## Coach of the Year

Mai just finished up her sophomore year studying Biochemistry and Biophysics. This term she coached two classrooms – 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Seven Oak Middle School and 9<sup>th</sup> grade at La Pine High School. She enjoys empowering students to pursue higher education. In her eyes, whether or not they remember the differences between a grant and scholarship comes second to their belief that they can go to and succeed in college. She has been involved with Beaver Hangouts since her freshman year and hopes to continue until she graduates. In addition to being a

Beaver Hangouts coach, she also works as a student coordinator. In her student coordinator role she helps create new lesson plans for future Beaver Hangouts students. When she's not spending time with Beaver Hangouts, Mai works in a research lab studying the molecular mechanisms of skin pathophysiology. She enjoys yoga, cooking, and hanging out with friends.

Mai Le



# Testimonials

"You learn a lot about how to prepare for college and how to be college ready." – 7<sup>th</sup> grade student

"My favorite part of Beaver Hangouts is to be able to see when kids realize that they are in charge of their future. When they realize that they can go to college even if everyone is telling them no." – Beaver Hangouts coach

"My favorite part of Beaver Hangouts is getting to answer all the questions that I would have wanted the answer to when I was younger." – Beaver Hangouts coach

"It's a fun experience to learn about college from college students." – 7th grade student

"I love watching the kids get excited about college- it makes me get excited to be here! It's also so amazing to be able to impact so many kids in such an immense way." – Beaver Hangouts coach

"My favorite part of Beaver Hangouts is when a student actively engages in conversations about college." – Beaver Hangouts coach

