Lake County is one of the most isolated communities in the state of Oregon. Repeatedly, Lake County has struggled to attract or create business with little success partly due to the lack of a sufficient work force, entrepreneurial training, and its remote location.

Lakeview Oregon – Population 2,260
Nearest largest community – 92 miles
Lake County community leaders have chosen to proactively address the sustainable community objectives that exist in this isolated community. Since 2008, community leaders in Lake County have demonstrated their commitment to sustainable development and education. A Lake County Renewable Energy working group, comprised of public and private representatives, was formed to coordinate renewable energy activities and prioritize activities including grant applications for funding.
This group was successful in bringing geothermal water to the Lake District Hospital, Lakeview school buildings, and the Lake County Industrial Park for use in heating these buildings.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=6xE577Nqob8
With all of the small energy projects, the hospital/school geothermal heating district and the Paisley 3MW geothermal power plant, there is currently a total of $13 million in net present value of energy savings to Lake County.
The group decided a solution was then needed to reduce the outward migration of residents. The community looked at overcoming their challenges by creating an instructional Innovation and Learning Center (ILC).

The Innovation and Learning Center (ILC) is a collaborative effort between the existing Lake County Renewable Energy Working Group and regional stakeholders to produce both the governance structure and learning opportunities offered at the ILC.
The vision for the ILC is to provide access to expanded learning to meet the needs of individuals, families, businesses, and communities, recognizing that schools need families and communities that are involved in the education of students and communities need schools to provide innovative education. The project provides additional dual-credit offerings for secondary students and college level courses for all age groups.
Lake County is currently offering a full contingency of programming through the ILC located at Daly Middle School.
The three modes of programming included traditional professor-student instruction, online courses, and high-speed video conferencing (i.e. Synchronous) where the instructor is located at a remote location (i.e. KCC Main Campus) and interacts live with students located at the ILC in Lakeview.

The main advantage to the synchronous mode of instruction is increased availability of courses to meet student needs.
An agriculture student can now travel a straight path from high school to an Oregon State University degree, all without leaving home.

Klamath Community College has created a new program by partnering with OSU, the Klamath County School District and Lake County School District so students can earn up to 11 credits in high school, then attend KCC’s agriculture science program and transfer to OSU’s online agricultural sciences program, while still working with local faculty.
More access for Rural Students

- Sean Gallagher, superintendent of Lake County School District No. 7, said “This is something we need to do throughout the state, reaching out to our communities and bringing higher education opportunities and services to the people,” he said. “I think that’s a very, very innovative way of thinking.”

- The agricultural industry needs an injection of young people. The average age of someone owning and farming land is between 58 and 62.

- “We need to have the training, schools and skills, the opportunities in order to continue with our tradition,” he said. “We need the opportunities for students and this is the way to do that.”
First of Its Kind Rural Nursing Program

- Because of the partnership a new two-year degree in Registered Nursing (RN) will soon be available to students in Klamath and Lake Counties, following a recent agreement between Klamath Community College and Lake Health District. Once completed, program curriculum would specialize in rural nursing.
Lake Health District will provide budgetary resources of up to $225,000 for three years, make available a clinical site, and provide classroom space, including up to two beds at Lake District Hospital or at the Innovation and Learning Center. Lake Health District will also assist in coordinating housing for students who may need to relocate.
Charlie Tveit, CEO of Lake Health District, expressed that the Health District has experienced very positive retention of homegrown nurses. “We have found that these types of programs being available for our region are a good investment, providing opportunities for employing and retaining quality staff for the hospital, long-term care unit, home health and hospice,” he said.
First of Its Kind Rural Nursing Program

- Registered nursing jobs are some of the most in-demand in the state of Oregon, with data from the Oregon Employment Department indicating that the number of needed registered nurses in the state will climb by nearly 25 percent by 2020. The average annual salary for those positions will climb to over $80,000 per year, according to the state.
Future Plans

- Future plans are for the center to provide local access to post-secondary education, workforce training, and professional development, including innovative programs unique to the region, with a focus on renewable energy.
- We also anticipate making available Entrepreneurship Training classes including programs such as “Made at the Kitchen Table”.
- Also plan on including commercial kitchen for Farm to Table training.
Innovation & Learning Center

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