



Teens concerned about education, economy, environment, yet optimistic about future
Report shows teens' concerns and visions for Oregon's next 50 years.

PORTLAND (June 11, 2009) – A qualitative report issued by Oregon 150, the non-profit group established by Governor Kulongoski to plan this year's sesquicentennial activities, has determined the three public issues most important to Oregon's youth are the economy, the environment, and education. This data reflects the first phase of Oregon 150's Youth Legacy project, "Project 2059."

Project 2059 uses online social networking, direct outreach and community organizing to provide Oregon teens with a platform to voice their visions of Oregon's future. The goal of this multimedia visioning process is to identify youth in each town who understand their stake in the future of Oregon's development and want to do something proactive about it.

Oregon 150 contracted Travis Huntington of Voice Box Media to travel across the state and collect video testimonies from youth on what their vision for Oregon is. Huntington visited 43 high schools across the state and conducted interviews with roughly 170 students in 18 days. From Ontario, to Warm Springs; Port Orford to Astoria, students recorded their opinions, ideas and concerns for their communities and how they plan to shape Oregon's next 50 years.

"The youth of Oregon have something to say," said Huntington of his interviews with Oregon teens. "They care about their future, and given the opportunity, they would collaborate in creating a vision for what Oregon should look like by 2059."

Teens were posed a series of questions and their responses were recorded on video, which were then sent to Grove Insight, an opinion research and communication strategies firm, for review and analysis. Among the issues discussed, teens voiced the most concern about Oregon's economic crisis and how it's affecting families and industries within their communities; on the link between the absence of funding for education and delinquency and drug use among their peers; and on the environment and the potential they see in the future of Oregon's burgeoning "green industries."

Guided by these findings, Project 2059 is moving forward to facilitate a youth-led, peer community development initiative. Teens across Oregon will be nominated to participate and lead a two-day seminar, taking with them the skills they need to identify problems within their communities and provide plans of action for collective solutions.

Huntington recorded 18 total hours of video while on the road, creating a vast archive of Oregon youth footage. Edited videos can be found on Oregon 150's YouTube page (link is listed below), with more being added throughout the week.

Additional information, an FTP video media package, and specific quotes from Oregon's youth – organized by city – are available upon request.

Link to Oregon 150 YouTube page: <http://www.youtube.com/orsesquicentennial>

Link to the Project 2059 Web page: <http://www.oregon150.org/projects/project2059/>

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Project 2059: Project 2059 is designed to inspire Oregon high school students to work together and propose their vision for Oregon's future, deciding how we as a state can reach this vision by 2059. Project 2059 is sponsored by **Oregon 150**, the non-profit planning group created by Governor Kulongoski. For more information, visit the [Project 2059 Web page](#).

Voice Box Media: Voice Box Media is a media literacy and mentorship program founded in 2008 through the **Multnomah Youth Commission**. Beyond leadership development, students engage in regular, skill-based workshops structured to develop critical thinking in and around the creative services industry. Find out more at [Voiceboxmedia.org](http://voiceboxmedia.org).

Grove Insight: Grove Insight has extensive experience in all facets of the survey process -- from designing questionnaires to moderating focus groups, from analyzing survey data to reporting on results in a way that is most useful to our clients and developing sound strategy recommendations. Grove Insight has queried literally hundreds of thousands of people across the country, building a reputation on sound methodological practices, innovative research techniques and strategic advice. Find out more at <http://www.groveinsight.com/>.