

# Beaver Hangouts

Engage

Inspire

Empower

Video chats with OSU students about why and how to go to college

Oregon State University

Precollege Programs

## A History of Progress

Beaver Hangouts began in 2012 when the *I Have a Dream Foundation* reached out to Precollege Programs about OSU students mentoring elementary classrooms in Portland. While the logistics of commuting to Portland from Corvallis was an impractical feat for full-time students, the opportunity for mentorship, growth, and community building was too good to pass up. Precollege Programs turned to video conferencing technology to initiate dialogue between classrooms and college students, and out came Beaver Hangouts.

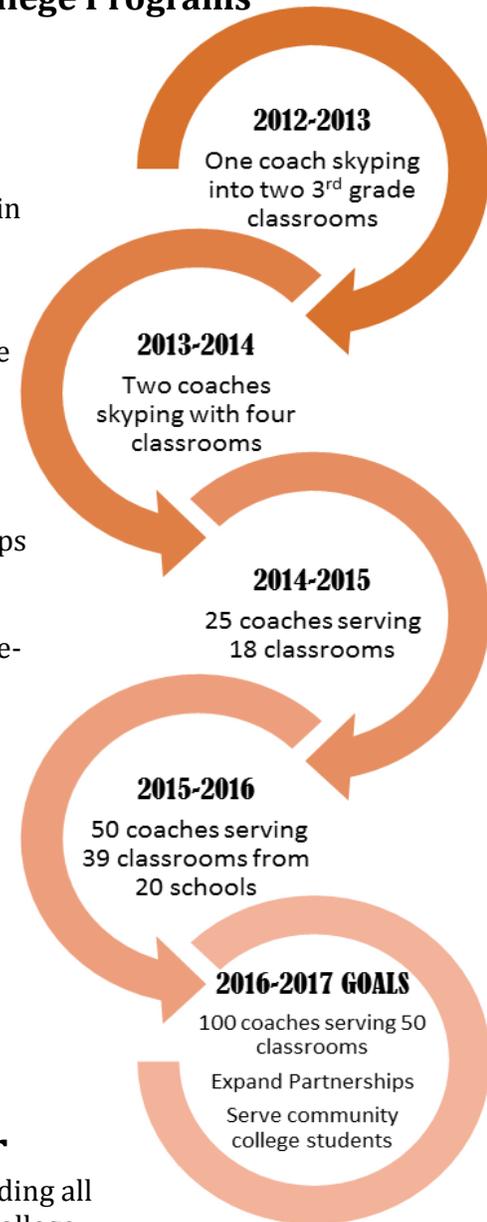
We have come a long way since 2012. In 2014, PCP received a grant to provide the office with an AmeriCorps member through Campus Compact of Oregon. Further, Beaver Hangouts began to partner with programs such as GEAR UP, AVID, and SMILE to create a team of college-preparedness coaches. We have greatly expanded the program since our first Skype session in 2012, and we cannot wait to see where the future takes us. Will you join us?



## A Welcome from the Director

"Beaver Hangouts exemplifies OSU's dedication to providing all Oregon students an equitable opportunity to achieve a college education. In a short time the program has grown to more than 60 coaches connecting with over 1000 K-12 students across the state. Beaver Hangouts has proven to be remarkably scalable and cost-effective, largely due to the many outstanding OSU students who dedicate volunteer hours as coaches. Program growth would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our two AmeriCorps coordinators, Kali Doten and Marisol Moreno Ortiz. Thank you everyone---and let's keep Growing!"

Kyle Cole, *Precollege Programs Director*



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## Program Staff

### **Kyle Cole**, *Precollege Programs Director*

Kyle received a Ph.D. from Yale University and a Bachelor's degree in biology from UC Santa Cruz. He has worked in youth outreach for five years and previously taught courses in organic chemistry, evolutionary biology, the origin of life and nanotechnology at Stanford University and Santa Clara University. Kyle now focuses on creating equitable higher education opportunities for Oregon's underserved youth, and oversees a wide variety of youth college-access programs that serve hundreds of rural and under represented students.

### **Jean Garcia-Chitwood**, *Precollege Programs Coordinator*

Jean holds a Ph.D. in Community College Leadership from OSU and an M.S. in Post-Secondary Adult & Continuing Education from PSU. She comes from a first generation, Latino migrant family. Previously, she has served as the Director of an Upward Bound program, and managed a K-12 STEM after school program at Centro Cultural. She created summer bridge programs, such as Puentes, while working at PCC. Most recently, she led efforts with the Lincoln County School District to re-initiate a Dual Credit Program and to create a new Early College program for high school students. Jean is a Precollege Programs coordinator at OSU and directly supervises Beaver Hangouts.



## College Access Corps Coordinators

### **Marisol Moreno Ortiz**

Marisol received a B.A. in English, with a Minor in Writing at OSU in 2014. She holds a M.A. in English from PSU and will begin a second Master's program in Fall 2017 in Library Science. She volunteers at the Corvallis-Benton County Public Library on the weekends. Marisol's love for poetry led to the publication of her poems, "Rose City," in *Pathos Literary Magazine* and "Along the Railroad," in *Doll Hospital Journal*. She is passionate about learning and believes everyone should have the opportunity to continue their education. Beaver Hangouts has been a new experience to increase her skill-set and become a leader. Being a first generation college graduate motivates Marisol to provide resources to future first generations.

### **Kali Doten**

Kali is also an OSU Alumna, receiving a B.S. in Zoology in 2013. She will pursue a M.A. in Environmental Arts and Humanities in Fall 2017 at OSU. Trained as a wildlife ecologist,

Kali has held many field and lab positions contributing to stream ecology and conservation research. Her commitment to environmental justice is shown through her involvement with local organizing efforts aimed to educate and mobilize her community toward justice and her graduate school plan. As a first-generation college graduate, Kali knows how vital Beaver Hangouts is in promoting a more equitable post-secondary education system. Beaver Hangouts has improved her intercommunication and leadership skills.

**CAC Coordinators** are AmeriCorps volunteers that develop and maintain partnerships with schools and organizations, and coaches. The bulk of their service includes recruiting, training, and mentoring coaches, coordinating their schedules to match classroom needs, and programming development. Building off of the work of previous coordinators, Marisol and Kali have expanded the program's reach.

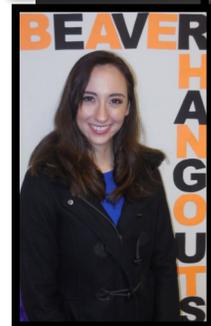
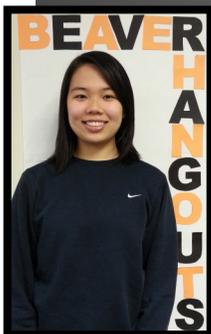
## College Access Student Coordinators

**Mai Le** is a Junior in Biochemistry and Biophysics and has been a Beaver Hangouts Coach since her Freshman year at OSU. She works as a lab assistant in the College of Pharmacy and also volunteers with OSU's Multiple Sclerosis program.

**Theresa Dinh** is a Junior in Biology and has coached since her Sophomore year. She does research in a Biophysics lab and volunteers with the Event Medical Services program.

**Sabrina Gadbury** is a Senior in Bioresource Research and Pre-Medicine and is new to Beaver Hangouts this year. She is doing research in a Nano-toxicology lab and also volunteers for a local clinic.

**Joseph Le** is a Senior in Biology Education and has been a coach since his Junior year. He works for Precollege Campus Tours and Mobile Science Camps and has been an Outdoor School Camp Counselor.



**College Access Student Coordinators** have shown a commitment to the program and to creating equitable college access. They assist in lesson plan and marketing material development, and coach recruitment. Their invaluable contributions, each with unique perspectives and skills, have strengthened and revitalized Beaver Hangouts. Thanks for your dedication and superb work!

## College Access Coaches

The College Access Coaches are the face and success of the program. Beaver Hangouts would not be what it is today without their civic engagement. Our gratitude to them is beyond measure.

Coaches share their enthusiasm and experience as a college student to youth all around Oregon by video conferencing with K-12 classrooms. Coaches offer deeper insight into college-preparedness by incorporating their experience of transitioning from high school to higher education into the lesson plan. In order to increase students' confidence and knowledge about attending college, coaches mentor their classrooms once every other week to lead discussions and activities about academic success, financial aid, goal setting, time management, and career exploration.

Coaching provides a unique opportunity for college students attending Oregon State University to serve a broad population of underserved K-12 students, who may not otherwise have access to information about college. For many K-12 students, Beaver Hangouts is their primary source of information about higher education.

Not only do Coaches have an impact on Oregon's youth but they themselves develop their leadership and public speaking skills for future careers by working closely with the College Access Corps Coordinators and Staff of Precollege Programs. There are currently over 60 coaches active this year. You can learn more about each of them on our website.



## Coaches: HOW TO GET INVOLVED

College Access Coach applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

### Requirements:

- ◇ Must be an Oregon State University student
- ◇ Minimum commitment of one term and one hour every other week
- ◇ Experience with Skype or Google Hangouts a plus

Applications can be found on our website at [beaverhangouts.oregonstate.edu](http://beaverhangouts.oregonstate.edu).



## Week 4

### Paying for College: *Coach Guide*

#### Learning Goals

1. Students will be able to name at least 7 ways to pay for school
2. Students will understand what a scholarship is, and how to find them
3. Students will understand that ANYONE can afford to go to college

#### Introduction (~5 minutes)

- **Welcome your classroom back to Beaver Hangouts**
  - Remind your students of your name and major.
  - Briefly recap your week as a college student.
  - Let the students know that this lesson will focus on a variety of different resources available to them that help pay for college.

#### Think, Pair, Share! (~10 minutes)

- **College Cost**
  - Have students get into groups of 2 or 3.
  - Have each group choose a type of post-secondary education (either community college, technical college, 4-year university public university, or 4-year private university).
  - Each group must try and estimate the total cost of tuition for one year at their chosen school type. This doesn't include room & board or anything else.
  - Have each group stand up and share the type of school and their estimate.
  - Estimates:
    - Community college/trade school: ~\$2,000-\$6,000/year
    - 4 year public university: ~\$6,000-\$15,000/year
    - 4 year private university: ~\$10,000-\$40,000/year
  - Ask them to raise their hand if they think they can afford to go to their chosen school type. Tell them EVERYONE can afford to go to college!

#### Activity 1 (~15 minutes)

- **7+ Ways to Pay for College**
  - Have students get out the "7 Ways to Pay for College" worksheet. Go through each definition one by one with them and see if they can name the correct form of financial aid to put in the blanks. **Answers:** 1. *Savings Account or College Fund*, 2. *Grants*, 3. *Scholarships*, 4. *Work Study*, 5. *Loans*, 6. *Military Service (& ROTC)*, 7. *AmeriCorps or Peace Corps (volunteering that provides an education award or living stipend)*

Teachers and Coaches are sent a lesson plan about a week ahead of each session. The lesson plan outlines what they should cover and what activities the students will do

Sessions typically take place every other week with some adjustments based on the classroom's schedule and needs.

The program is designed for 15 sessions. Most classrooms have 4 or 5 sessions per term.

Sessions typically last 30 minutes to 1 hour.



While lesson plans are a great resource for activities and discussion topics, they are meant to guide Coaches through each session, not dictate the course of the session. Students have a diverse set of interests and may have more pressing topics they want to discuss for that week. Coaches should rely on both the lesson plan and the K-12 students' interests to shape each lesson.

## Testimonials

“I learned not to fear college, and if I try, I can achieve anything”  
- Owen, 8th grade

“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

“Beaver Hangouts answered my questions about college and showed me how important it is for my future.”  
-Lilly, 7th grade

“I know there were several students who found your words valuable and took away good information.”  
- 12th Grade Teacher

“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

## Continued

- o **Alternative activity:** Have students fill out as many answers on the sheet by themselves or with a partner within a time limit. The first person to finish or the person with most correct answers wins.
- o When going through each of these types of financial aid, be sure to explain them thoroughly, including who is eligible for it and how you apply for it.
- o Talk about your own experience with financial aid and what you receive from Oregon State.
- o Some other resources that help cover or reduce the cost of college tuition include:
  - Oregon Promise
  - Western Undergraduate Exchange
  - Dual Credit (College Now @ La Pine)

### Activity 2 (~15 minutes)

#### ➤ Scholarships

- o Have students get out the Scholarships handout. Before reading through the sheet, have them take the “Are there scholarships for me?” quiz. In the blanks at the bottom, have them think of 3 other areas they might be able to get a scholarship for. (The answer to all of the questions is YES!) Tell them at the end.
- o Tell students about any scholarships you receive, and how you were awarded them. What did you have to do to get the scholarship?
- o Go through the rest of the sheet, and encourage them to research different scholarships online with the websites listed.
  - Turn over the worksheet and review the OSAC example with the class
    - \*students do not have to fill this out for our session—it’s just a visual reference of what they would need to complete to apply for the OSAC

### Closing/Assignment (~5 minutes)

#### ➤ Wrap-up

- o Ask them again who thinks they can afford to go to college? Hopefully every hand will be raised! If not, take time to address any concerns.
- o Leave some time for students to ask you questions
- o Optional: Give students a short assignment for next time

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## Teachers: HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Classroom/School applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

### Requirements:

- ◇ Must be a school, class, afterschool club, or non-profit in Oregon
- ◇ Have access to video conferencing software, such as Skype

Applications can be found on our website at [beaverhangouts.oregonstate.edu](http://beaverhangouts.oregonstate.edu).

# Program Goals for 2016-2017

Our goal for the 2016-2017 academic year is to have 100 coaches serving 50 classrooms and 1000 students. By increasing the number of classrooms, we increase the number of students reached with this program. Also, by increasing the number of coaches, we help more OSU students develop applicable skills, and gain a better understanding of, and responsibility to, their communities.

Coming to the end of Winter Term 2017, 60 classrooms, and about 1088 students have been served with the

amazing and hard work of our coaches. Many of the K-12 students are from underserved areas and might not receive guidance in college access, and learning about the daily life of a college student from a current college student. Beaver Hangouts' goal is to help as many K-12 students as possible feel that college is available to them and give them confidence to strive to attend the college of their choice. In addition to those program goals, we have a few pilot programs in the works...



## BH Community College, Native, and Spanish Programs

Beaver Hangouts recognizes the needs of different communities across Oregon and we aim to cater to those needs through our new programs tailored to community college transfer students, Native American students, and Spanish-speaking students. College Access Coaches video chatting with each program have special connections and direct experience with students from that community.

In addition, bilingual or immersion classes in Ontario are paired with Spanish-speaking coaches, Gabi Tinoco and Alex Ruiz (below), and lesson plans are delivered in Spanish.



Above: Raven Waldron and Ame Manon-Ferguson, OSU Native American students involved with the Eena Haws Native American Longhouse Cultural Center, lead sessions with Native K-12 students in Salem.



For instance, Miguel Gaspar (above), an Oregon Coast Community College alumnus currently at Oregon State, facilitates Beaver Hangouts sessions with prospective transfer students.



By tailoring lesson plans and delivery methods to provide diverse sets of students with college information, we hope to broaden the door to higher education attainability in Oregon.

Our Precollege Programs Coordinator, Jean, envisioned these pivotal pilot programs. It has been a joy to see them come to fruition and witness the impact they have had so far.

# The 4-1-1: Beaver Hangouts Winter Retreat

Coaches and coordinators convened during Winter term to celebrate their service in Beaver Hangouts at the second annual *Beaver Hangouts Retreat*. The *Retreat* not only offered a space for Coaches to gather with good company and good food, but also provided opportunities for them to refine their coaching skills and to learn about the importance of their service. College Access Corps Coordinators, Marisol Moreno Ortiz and Kali Doten, facilitated discussions about educational justice in Oregon and the legacy of White Supremacy in the United States to establish a context for programs such as Beaver Hangouts. Coaches engaged wholeheartedly in dialogue on topics that many people shy away from – privilege, race, and inequity. By learning about, and confronting systemic social issues,



“This retreat focused on a lot of the social justice side of our service, which I really appreciated.” -Mai Le, Coach and Student Coordinator

Coaches also had the chance to address common challenges they face when video conferencing their classrooms by role playing difficult scenarios in “BH Theatre”. Student Coordinators, Mai, Theresa, and Joseph, along with experienced coach, Shaylin, led the skits by performing a problematic coaching session, and Coaches had the opportunity to step in and offer their suggestions to fix the issue. Bonding over technological problems and student disengagement, Coaches brainstormed ideas to manage such issues to prepare them for the rest of the year.



“...we went more in-depth about why people are who they are, and how it came to be so (like poverty, people of color).” -Nate Coddington

The space allowed coaches who usually work alone or in pairs throughout the term to bond with others over their service. The *Retreat* showed many Coaches just how much they could learn from each other. Marisol and Kali did a great job of organizing and facilitating the event.

## Office of Precollege Programs

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## BEAVER HANGOUTS

Our mission at Beaver Hangouts is to provide all students with an equal opportunity for college access and readiness through the use of technology. We serve a variety of K-12 schools and programs all over Oregon. Our main focus is rural and underrepresented populations. Over 50% of the students in the schools we currently work with qualify for the Federal free or reduced-price lunch program. **Beaver Hangouts is designed to provide college access information to all K-12 students by volunteer OSU students, anyone is eligible to apply.**

### CONTACT US

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