

GTA Newsletter February 2012

1 message

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GTA Sponsors

→ GTA Announces Accomplishments for 2011

2011 was another great year for the tech industry of the Gorge and the Gorge Technology Alliance. We appreciate all the support we receive in order to support your businesses in return. In 2011, we launched Geek Lunch and GTA Happy Hour, developed a new GTA website, tripled participation in our FIRST® LEGO® League Qualifying Tournaments and many more activities. Read about everything that your organization is doing for you [here](#).

→ Job Openings with GTA Members

- Blue Marble Creative is seeking a Production Designer. **Feb 24 deadline!** [More info...](#)
- Innovative Composite Engineering is seeking a machinist. [More info...](#)
- Sagetech Corp. is seeking a Procurement Manager, Database/ Web Developer, two Electrical Engineers and an Electronics / Composite Tech. [More info...](#)
- Columbia Gorge Community College is hiring a ITS Computer Support Technician I. March 7 deadline. [Read more...](#)
- Google in The Dalles is seeking a Software Engineer and has several openings in Engineering Operations and Management.

PLATINUM



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SILICON

- Champion Tool Storage
- Chernoff Vilhauer LLP
- Gorge Networks
- Gorge Technology
- Hood River Communications
- Access Co-op
- Mid-Columbia Economic Development District
- Port of Hood River
- Prigel Machine & Fabrication
- Privacy Ready LLC
- Providence Hospital
- Sherman County
- Springhouse Cellar
- Zepher Inc.

Gorge Technology Alliance
Mission

[Read more...](#)

➔ Upcoming GTA Events

Featured Event on Feb. 28

Join us to learn a little more about Healthcare IT activities in the Gorge and about the Gorge Tech Alliance. After retiring to the Gorge from Intel as Director of IT, GTA Member Coco Yackley got involved with regional healthcare IT efforts and is a part of Gorge Health Connect, a newly-formed nonprofit health information exchange (HIE). She'll provide an overview on healthcare IT with additional background on the Healthcare Bill components tied to healthcare IT. Members will find good background information, possibilities for IT business needs in the community and what it will mean for your business. The GTA will also provide an update on our 2011 accomplishments and activities planned for 2012. Come learn what your membership is providing to your business and to the Gorge! We'll also have an opportunity for attendees to introduce their business to the group.

Event Details:

Tuesday, February 28
 6:30pm networking, 7pm presentations
 Springhouse Cellar Winery, 13 Railroad Ave., Hood River
 Free for GTA Members, \$10 for non-members.
 Appetizers provided; no-host bar available.

Happy Hour on March. 8

Informal networking and a place to bounce your tough tech questions off other GTA brains. Join us at Walking Man Brewery in Stevenson, 6pm! Free for all to attend; no-host.

Also in March:

- **Geek Lunch on March 20**, Noon, China Gorge in Hood River, Free for all to attend, no-host. Topic TBA soon!
- **Featured Event on March 27**, 6:30pm, Springhouse Cellar Winery in Hood River, Free for members, \$10 for non-members. Speaker TBA soon!

To promote and support the successful technology business sector of the Columbia River Gorge.

Through networking and marketing opportunities, educational events, workforce development and by branding the Gorge as an excellent location for tech businesses, the GTA creates linkages and support structures for this industry cluster that continues to expand.

Learn more at crgta.org.

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Disclaimer

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→ GTA Workforce Activities

Columbia Gorge Community College is working with the GTA to offer **SolidWorks training courses** at the beginner and intermediate level. Read more about the courses [here](#). If you are interested, please contact [Jessica](#) today.

The GTA will again be participating in this year's **Columbia Gorge Job Fair**, scheduled for April 14, 10am to 2pm at the Civic Auditorium in The Dalles. GTA Members, contact [Jessica](#) today if your business would like to participate in our table.

→ Columbia Gorge Business and Workforce Forum, Feb. 24

Sponsored by South Central Workforce Council, the Oregon Consortium, Oregon Workforce Alliance and

Employment Security Department, this event is intended to begin a dialogue on developing workforce employment and training programs to support our emerging industries in the Gorge and to organize a regional partnership around a grant application to the U.S. Dept. of Labor Workforce Innovation Grant Fund.

Event Details:

Friday, February 24, 10am to 2pm
Shilo Inn (3223 Bret Clodfelter Way, The Dalles)
Lunch Provided
To RSVP or ask questions, contact Becky at 5009-574-1950 or becky.smith@co.yakima.wa.us

→ Gorge Angel Conference is Coming!

The clock is ticking for entrepreneurs still considering whether to apply for the 2012 Gorge Angel Conference. **Deadline is this Friday, Feb 24!**

For those just wishing to attend and join in the fun, registration is now open for this year's two-day event.

Day One: The Gorge Tech Alliance is partnering with Gorge OEN to bring you **Pre-Conference Seminars & Reception** (April 23, 2012,

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1:00-7:00 PM at the Columbia Gorge Hotel, Hood River). Seminars are packed with information about business planning, company valuation and commercializing big ideas - from research to product.

Day Two: **Gorge Angel Conference** (April 24, 2012, 11:30-5:00 PM, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles). This year's keynote presentation, "The Answer is Brought to You by the Letter G -- What is the Question?" will be provided by Will Swope, Swope Consulting.

Learn more about all activities or register now [here](#).

Companies Sought for Renewable Energy Technology (RET) Career Fair at CGCC

Columbia Gorge Community College is hosting their annual Renewable Energy Technology (RET) Career Fair for enrolled RET students on March 9, 10am - 12pm at The Dalles campus. This career fair attracts highly-skilled students with experience in electrical and mechanical systems and electronics with a focus on the wind industry. Many RET students have previous degrees and extensive life experience. Employers from any realm of the RET sector - wind, solar, hydro, or electronics - are invited to attend to share information about their company and/or jobs in the sector. More information at www.renewableenergycareers.org.

The RET Program also recently launched a virtual tour of their facilities and program. Take the tour now [here!](#)

Get Your Business in SAO's Tech Industry Database

The Software Association of Oregon, a partner of the GTA, is launching an industry database initiative that will help the GTA, the SAO and others better tell the story of what businesses are here, verticals they represent, strong clusters, etc. and help foster connections between businesses. They are asking for all tech businesses (not just software companies) to fill out a profile form now. You don't have to be an SAO member and you don't have to

be in Oregon - GTA members in SW Washington are also encouraged to participate. The form takes an estimated 15 minutes. They'll be sharing the launch of this database and more at their "Why Oregon?" Software Industry Summit and Gala on March 22.

- Access the form [here](#).
- Learn more about the Summit [here](#).
- Other SAO Events: Ignite SAO! v2 on March 15, 5:30pm in Portland. Learn [more](#).

→ LEGO Education Grants to Support STEM Education

LEGO Education offers grant seeking resources for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education on their website and regularly through a free e-newsletter. Find resources for your school or program today at <http://www.legoeducation.us/eng/grants/>

→ EDA Grants for Businesses Hurt by Imports

The Northwest Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms program is a program by the U.S. Economic Development Administration to help U.S. companies that are hurt by imports. They offer up to \$75,000 in matching federal grants for manufacturers that qualify by demonstrating that their business has been negatively impacted by foreign competition. Eligible companies can use the funds for projects including: marketing, lean manufacturing, quality control certification, product or facility design, export assistance and many others. Funds cannot be used by an eligible company to purchase assets, such as equipment. **This program will also write the grant application for the company at no cost to them.** [Learn more...](#)

→ GTA Partner Event: AUVSI, Cascade Chapter Meeting March 14

The Cascade Chapter of AUVSI (Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International) is

hosting their Spring 2012 networking event in Portland on March 14. Join the group at Kell's Irish Pub from 4:30 to 7:30pm to meet others in the Unmanned Vehicle industry. Cost is \$10. [Read more or register...](#)

→ Optimizing Employee Performance Workshop in Hood River

The Columbia Gorge Society for Human Resource Management is hosting a workshop on March 27 in Hood River on how to optimize employee performance. BCI Group, Full Sail Brewing Company and GTA Member Catalyst -Performance Consulting are sponsoring this event.

Event Details:

March 27, 8:30am - 12pm

Full Sail Brewing, Hood River

Registration fee: \$60

[Read more or register...](#)

→ GTA Members and Sponsors

Join the growing list of individuals and businesses who support the tech sector of the Gorge while enjoying all the benefits of [membership](#) or [sponsorship](#). Renewal or joining is quick and painless using PayPal through [our website](#).

Many thanks to these businesses and individuals who have already pledged their support!

New Members:

[Impact Inc.](#)

→ Calendar of Events

See above articles for details on all events:

February

- **Feb 24:** Deadline for businesses seeking to pitch at the Gorge Angel Conference.
- **Feb 24:** Columbia Gorge Business and Workforce Forum, 10am to 2pm, Shiloh Inn, The Dalles.
- **Feb 28: GTA Featured Event, 6:30pm at**

Springhouse Cellar Winery

March

- **March 8: GTA Happy Hour, 6pm, Walking Man Brewery in Stevenson**
- **March 14:** Cascade Chapter of AUVSI event in Portland, 4:30pm
- **March 15:** Ingite SAO! v2, 5:30pm, Portland
- **March 20: GTA Geek Lunch, Noon, China Gorge, Hood River**
- **March 22:** SAO's Software Industry Summit, 5pm, Portland
- **March 27:** Optimize Employee Performance Workshop, 8:30- 12, Hood River
- **March 27: GTA Featured Event, 6:30pm, Springhouse Cellar Winery, Hood River**

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