



## The Oregon Diploma

Part of the focus of the Oregon Diploma is getting students more actively engaged in their communities and world. The goal is that students will engage in education outside of the classroom, seeing the connection of what they are learning in school to their future goals and aspirations.

One opportunity for students to think critically about the future comes from the historic celebration of Oregon's 150th birthday.

The Oregon 150 Youth Legacy Symposium - Project 2059: The Future is Ours to Create is a unique youth legacy project designed specifically to involve Oregon's high school students in Oregon's future.

Below is a message from Henry Balensifer, who is the youngest member of the Oregon 150 Board and Chair of its Youth Legacy Projects.

Dear Educators:

I'd like to bring to your attention a Sesquicentennial Project that is geared toward high school students. It's called Project 2059: The Future is Ours to Create. Our ambitious mission is to "Actively engage today's youth to envision Oregon's next 50 years and create a blueprint for realizing that vision."

This is a great way for students to demonstrate that they are not just young people still learning. Rather, that they are a powerful force, a generation of people who want to help reshape politics and policy to make Oregon a safer, sustainable, and more livable place.

Project 2059 empowers high school students to create a collaborative vision of what Oregon should look like in the year of our 200th bicentennial. They will consider issues that will shape our state over the next 50 years. They will use innovative technology to present their ideas and identify the best thinking of their peers.

In the summer of 2009, a select group of participants from around the state will gather at Willamette University to craft this input into a visionary platform for Oregon's future.

To get more information and to find out how to participate go to:  
<http://www.oregon150.org/projects/youth-legacy/>.

Thanks for involving your students in a process they will never forget.

Regards,

Henry A. Balensifer III  
Chair, Youth Legacy Projects  
Oregon 150 Commission