



**Commissioner Brad Avakian**  
Bureau of Labor & Industries

## **Press Release**

For Immediate Distribution

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### **Avakian Praises Mt. Angel-Silver Falls CTE Partnership**

*CTE revitalization grant funds hands-on learning at two middle, two high schools*

**SALEM** – Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian today toured new career and technical education (CTE) classes at Silverton High School and Mt. Angel Middle School made possible by the [state CTE Revitalization Grant Fund](#)—which Avakian won legislative creation of in 2011. As head of the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) and the state’s Apprenticeship and Training Division, Avakian plays a key role in preparing Oregon’s workforce for high-demand, living-wage jobs—work that is directly supported by increased CTE options in Oregon schools.

“Even throughout the economic downturn, Oregon employers were asking me where they were supposed to find the skilled workers that they need,” Avakian said. “Programs like this excellent collaboration are the answer. Job skills and career exploration in our schools mean our students can find their place in the workforce sooner and more productively, and it’s a win for them as well as our local employers and economy.”

The Mt. Angel and Silver Falls School Districts received a \$170,365 state grant to launch “Building the Pipeline through Project-Based Learning.” Over 1,800 students will be served by new and expanded programs in pre-engineering, biomedical science/sports medicine, agricultural sciences, and business administration at four schools: Mt. Angel and Mark Twain Middle Schools and Kennedy and Silverton High Schools. By sharing curriculum, infrastructure, professional development, teachers and other resources, each school can offer more CTE options to students than they could independently—a major victory for the middle schools which previously had no CTE offerings.

“The difference that these CTE opportunities are going to make for students—it’s huge, just huge,” said Trish Conlon, who is coordinating the districts’ joint effort. “We’re very excited about what’s already happening, and we’re already talking about what we can do to continue to grow the Mt. Angel and Silver Falls partnership as well as expand this model that’s working so well to other districts.”

Visit [www.oregon.gov/BOLI](http://www.oregon.gov/BOLI) for more information about all of BOLI’s work to support Oregon workers, local employers and a stronger economy.

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