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### Media Release

## **Hillsboro School District to Participate in \$250,000 Math in Real Life Grant**

*Grant will enable summer externships and embedded professional development during the school year for teachers*

**April 7, 2016, Hillsboro, OR** –Hillsboro School District will benefit from a \$250,000 Math in Real Life grant recently awarded to the Portland Metro STEM Partnership (PMSP) from the Oregon Department of Education. The grant will connect classroom teachers with local business partners for externships and collaboration over the summer, and will then continue with professional development in the Lesson Study Cycle over the course of the school year.

Twenty-eight teachers in the Metro area, including staff from Hillsboro, will receive 60 total hours of collaborative professional development, split evenly between the summer and school year experiences. Together, they will create lessons focused on applied math that are designed to increase student interest and engagement, particularly for those who are historically underserved.

Other objectives of the grant are to:

- Increase student mathematics achievement aligned to Oregon standards.
- Decrease the mathematics achievement gap between historically underserved students and their peers.
- Increase student interest and enthusiasm in math by providing more opportunities to engage in interactive, student-centered problem-solving.
- Increase teacher knowledge, enthusiasm, self-efficacy, and pedagogical preparedness of teachers to successfully implement challenging, open-ended, inquiry-based practices within applied mathematics instruction.
- Increase teacher beliefs that all of their students are capable of doing mathematics.

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The Portland Metro STEM Partnership (PMSP) is an Oregon Regional STEM Hub. Key stakeholder groups from K-12 schools districts, higher education, industry, and community-based STEM program providers form the PMSP to address critical issues involving Oregon’s need to improve STEM education, changing STEM workforce requirements, and the need to increase equitable access to STEM degree programs and careers.

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***Engage and challenge all learners to ensure academic excellence***

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