

## ***Oregon 529 College Savings Network & How it Can Work for You***

### **Presenter: John Valley, Outreach Director, Oregon 529 College Savings Network**

The Oregon College Savings Plan is designed to help parents and families better understand the long-term benefits of higher education and how to reach their college planning goals. The Be College Ready program was specifically designed so that school districts, individual elementary schools and parent/teacher groups can take full advantage of the program's resources with very little time and effort. Come learn about the latest developments surrounding the Oregon College Savings Plan, the new pilot elementary school program Be College Ready and the recently passed law the ABLE Act which will create a new savings account for people with disabilities. All of these programs are being implemented by the Oregon Treasury Department. This session provides information about each of these programs and Q & A time for the audience.

### **John Valley, Outreach Director, Oregon 529 College Savings Network**

John Valley was hired as the Outreach Director for the Oregon 529 College Savings Network in September 2014. Before that John was a Field Representative for U. S. Senator Jeff Merkley in the Portland metropolitan area for five and a half years. Earlier in his career John was the Oregon Government Affairs Director at both the American Heart Association and American Cancer Society, he has lived in Oregon for the past seventeen years. John has received a Political Science degree from George Washington University and a Law Degree from American University's Washington College of Law. John's first job out of law school, and what brought him to Oregon back in 1998, was the Consumer Advocate position with the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG). Since then John has settled in as an Oregonian living in SE Portland with his wife Amanda of twelve years, his nine year old son Parker and six year old daughter Bridget.