Umpqua Community Development Corporation (CORE)

Community Profile

Population 104,471 (Douglas County)
63,447 (Coos County)

Location Roseburg

Position Description

Sponsor Umpqua Community Development Corporation and the CORE Collaborative

Supervisor Mickey Beach, Community Economic Development Manager

Assignment This is one of five RARE positions sponsored by the CORE Collaborative. CORE, which stands for Connecting Oregon for Rural Entrepreneurship, is a collaboration funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and spearheaded by Oregon’s Rural Development Initiatives. While each of the five RARE assignments will vary based on the needs of the specific communities, all CORE positions will share a focus on creating and sustaining entrepreneurship development systems in economically distressed target areas. In Coos and Douglas Counties, the RARE participant will work with the Umpqua Community Development Corporation on several projects including: organizing workshops and trainings; coordinating and facilitating the Advisory Board; conducting media outreach; and providing technical assistance for entrepreneurs, as appropriate. While local leaders and entrepreneurs will spearhead CORE’s regional efforts, a CORE Statewide Advisory Board will bring together diverse lessons learned to ultimately impact statewide policy change.

Required Skills The ideal participant would have strong organizational skills, be proficient in the use of Microsoft Office, and should be an effective communicator, both verbally and in writing. S/he should be creative and should take initiative, especially when planning and marketing events. Finally, knowledge of business development and entrepreneurship would be desirable.

RARE Participant

Lily Brislen, a native Midwesterner, graduated from Beloit College with a degree in Theatre Arts and a minor in Political Science. After college she lived in Appalachian Ohio serving an Americorps*VISTA year with Rural Action Sustainable Agriculture. There among the hills she confirmed her deep love of all things rural and food related. Pushing this passion to its extreme she traveled to the jungle of Ecuador where she interned with the Kallari Association, a cooperative run by indigenous Kichwa communities, and makers of the world’s best chocolate. Lily looks forward to continuing her work in sustainable economic development, and to experiencing all that life has to offer west of the Mississippi.