



## Open Nominations: Board of Directors (close Feb 21, 2020)

### Mission

To partner with Oregon communities to catalyze entrepreneurial ecosystems, connect entrepreneurs to resources (including overlooked entrepreneurs), and contribute to the creation of prosperous economies.

### Vision

- Communities support, value, and celebrate entrepreneurs.
- Regional leaders recognize entrepreneurs are a primary creator of net new jobs.
- Small and rural communities in Oregon have thriving economies.
- A culture of possibilities is embraced.

## About Oregon RAIN

Oregon RAIN is invited into small and rural communities to help them build an entrepreneurial economy. Initial activities involve engaging community stakeholders who care about the region's economy. Oregon RAIN builds partnerships to help implement its Rural Entrepreneurial Development Program. Our team of Venture Catalysts help build a region's entrepreneurial culture and economy. They also connect overlooked entrepreneurs to *people* (mentors and talent), *programs* (workshops and accelerators), *physical assets* (space and equipment), and *capital* (equity, grants, loans, crowdfunding).

Since 2015, Oregon RAIN has assisted over 300 rural entrepreneurs and graduated 21 startups from accelerators through implementation of our Rural Entrepreneurial Development Program. The startups who participated in our program have generated close to \$10M in revenue, received nearly \$4M in capital investment, and created close to 400 mostly-rural jobs. Oregon RAIN is currently providing services in 19 rural cities and 1 small city across 5 counties.

Over the last few years Oregon RAIN has received multiple awards for our approach to building entrepreneurial economies:

- 2016 OEDA "Outstanding Collaborative Partner" award
- 2017 Florence Area Chamber of Commerce "Innovation in Business" award
- 2019 Oregon Cascade West Council of Governments "Partner of the Year" award

## [Download Oregon RAIN Impact Report](#)

### Evolution of our Board of Directors

Over the past two years, Oregon RAIN's founding mission has evolved. Originally, we were founded to assist technology companies located in Benton, Lane, Lincoln, or Linn County that were mostly associated with the University of Oregon and Oregon State University. Due to demand from small and rural communities, Oregon RAIN evolved to assist underserved and



overlooked entrepreneurs in small and rural communities across the State of Oregon and to partner with communities to help them build sustainable entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Oregon RAIN's current board of directors is comprised of passionate individuals who have affiliations associated with our founding mission. We are in the process of transitioning to a new board of directors that will be aligned with our new mission and vision, and that prioritize, support, and invest in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### **Board Position Description**

The Board of Directors will support the work of Oregon RAIN and provide mission-based leadership and strategic governance. While day-to-day operations are led by Oregon RAIN's executive director (ED), the Board-ED relationship is a partnership, and the appropriate involvement of the Board is both critical and expected. Specific Board Member responsibilities include:

#### **Leadership, governance and oversight:**

- Serving as a trusted advisor to the ED as she/he/they develops and implements Oregon RAIN's strategic plan.
- Reviewing outcomes and metrics created by Oregon RAIN for evaluating its impact, and regularly measuring its performance and effectiveness using those metrics; reviewing agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
- Approving Oregon RAIN's annual budget, audit reports, and material business decisions; being informed of, and meeting all, legal and fiduciary responsibilities.
- Contributing to an annual performance evaluation of the ED.
- Assisting the ED and board chair in identifying and recruiting other Board Members as needed.
- Partnering with the ED and other board members to ensure that board resolutions are carried out.
- Serving on committees or task forces and taking on special assignments.
- Representing Oregon RAIN to stakeholders; acting as an ambassador for the organization, and for Oregon's entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- Ensuring Oregon RAIN's commitment to a diverse board and staff that reflects the communities Oregon RAIN serves.
- Reviewing governance documents, ensuring they are up-to-date and compliant.
- Participating in annual strategic planning with the ED and staff.

*Women, minorities, people with disabilities, veterans, and leaders representing rural communities are strongly encouraged to [apply](#).*



### **Fundraising**

Oregon RAIN Board Members will consider Oregon RAIN a philanthropic priority and make annual gifts that reflect that priority. So that Oregon RAIN can credibly solicit contributions from foundations, organizations, and individuals, Oregon RAIN expects to have 100% of Board Members make an annual contribution that is commensurate with their capacity, or secure outside contributions at a minimum of \$5,000/year.

### **Board terms/participation**

Oregon RAIN's Board Members will serve a three-year term to be eligible for re-appointment for one additional term. There will be 4 to 6 board meetings held annually and committee meetings will be held in coordination with full board meetings.

### **Qualifications**

This is an extraordinary opportunity for an individual who is passionate about Oregon RAIN's mission and vision, and has a track record of strong leadership. Selected Board Members will have achieved leadership stature in business, entrepreneurship, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector. His/her/their accomplishments will allow him/her/them to attract other well-qualified, high-performing Board Members, and help advance Oregon RAIN's mission and vision.

### **Ideal candidates will have the following qualifications:**

- Extensive professional experience with significant executive leadership accomplishments in business, government, philanthropy, or the nonprofit sector.
- A commitment to and understanding of Oregon RAIN's beneficiaries, preferably based on experience.
- A passion for rural communities and economies and underserved populations.
- Savvy diplomatic skills and a natural affinity for cultivating relationships and persuading, convening, facilitating, and building consensus among diverse individuals.
- Personal qualities of integrity, credibility, and a passion for improving the lives of Oregon RAIN's beneficiaries.
- Alignment with [Oregon RAIN's philosophy regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion](#).

Service on Oregon RAIN's Board of Directors is without remuneration, except for administrative support, travel, and accommodation costs in relation to Board Members' duties.



## Commitment & Responsibilities

1. Serve a minimum three-year term on the board. Eligible to serve up to two (2) three-year terms, if re-elected.
2. Contribute at least three (3) hours a month to Oregon RAIN advocacy and board responsibilities.
3. Attend at least 75% of Oregon RAIN Board of Directors meetings annually (4 - 6 meetings are held annually).
4. Participate on at least one (1) sub-committee of the board.
5. Attend a minimum of two (2) Oregon RAIN events each year.
6. Make a serious commitment to participate in Oregon's entrepreneurial ecosystem, especially in rural communities.
7. Stay informed about committee matters, prepare for meetings, and review and comment on minutes and reports.
8. Build a collegial working relationship with other board members and committee members to create a consensus.
9. Participate in the advancement of Oregon RAIN's strategic plan, including fundraising where appropriate.
10. Serve as an ambassador to Oregon RAIN's mission and vision.

## Nomination process

[Click here to nominate yourself or someone else for the Oregon RAIN Board of Directors.](#)

Thank you for your interest and time!

## Timeline

January 6:	Open board member nominations
February 21:	Close board nominations
March 20:	Select nominees to interview
April 1 - 17:	Interview nominees
Week of April 27:	Announce new board members
May:	Board member term begins

*Note:* The current Board Chair (Sabrina Parsons, CEO of Palo Alto Software) and one to two other current board members (Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis and Corvallis Mayor Biff Traber) will remain on the board through June 2020 to assist in the transition of the new board of directors and to ensure knowledge transfer and maximization of governance. There are two new board members who joined in December 2019: Erin Reynolds, Florence's City Manager and Austin Ramirez, Lane County's Community & Economic Development Manager. The goal is to add 3-5 new board members by May 2020.