The Network Effect: Orchestrating Oregon's Digital Ecosystem

How Research & Education Networks (RENs) Create Value Over Time

NotebookLM

Jameka Williams
Executive Director of Member Services & Community Engagement, Merit Network

Architecting alignment between mission, technology, and community

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How Research & Education Networks (RENs) Create Value Over Time

What time teaches - The Merit journey and charting your course

Merit Network

60 years of legacy and lessons

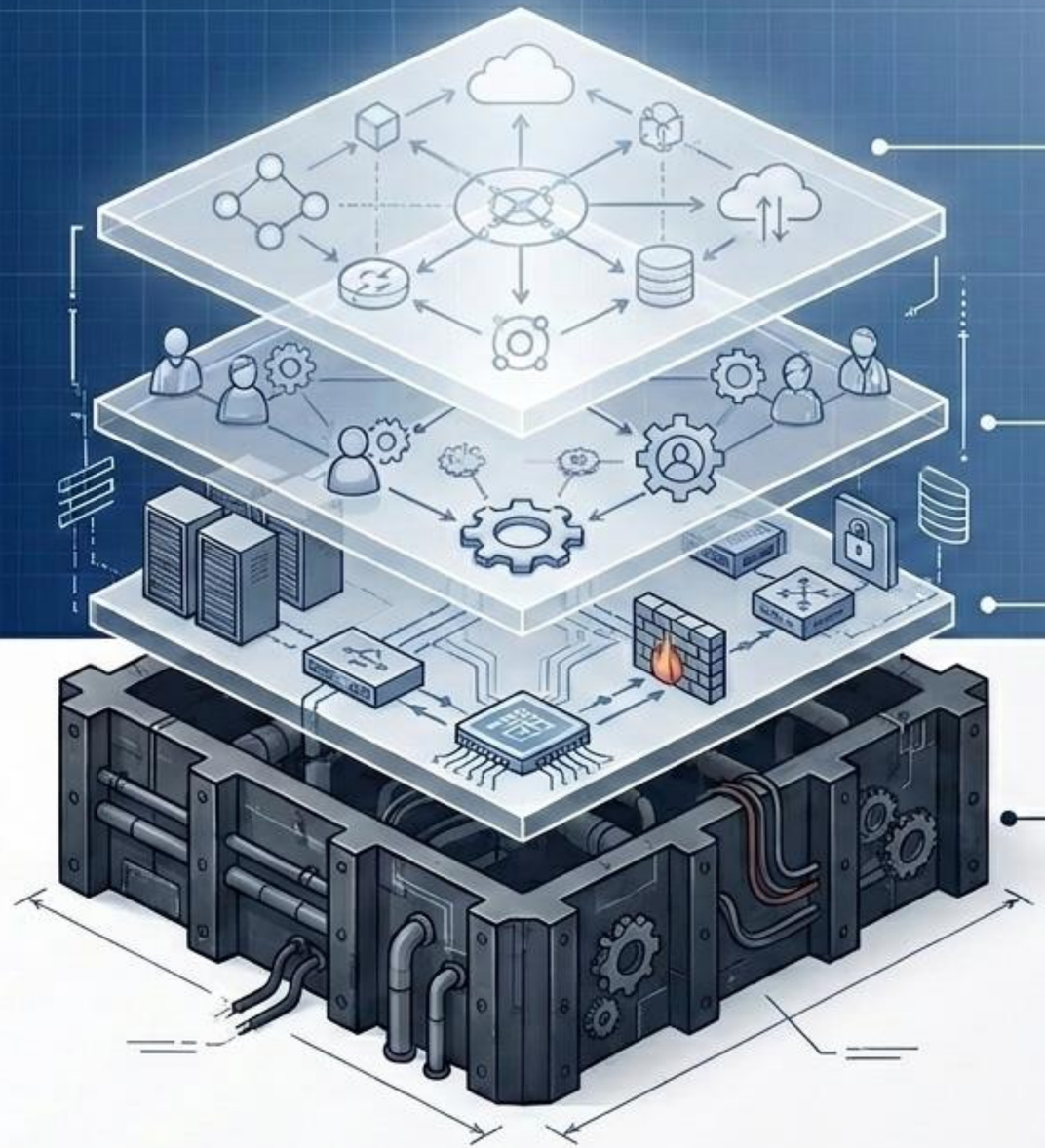
Link Oregon

Compressed, intentional design phase

You have a head start, build upon the lessons.

Oregon holds the rare opportunity to build an ecosystem in the present moment, leveraging the lessons learned over decades of iteration to mature a strategic ecosystem of partners, collaborators, and community members.

Beyond Bandwidth: The REN Value Stack



Ecosystem Orchestration

The ultimate goal. Seamless cross-sector alignment generating shared value.

Community

Human integration. Shared practices, governance, and peer support.

Services

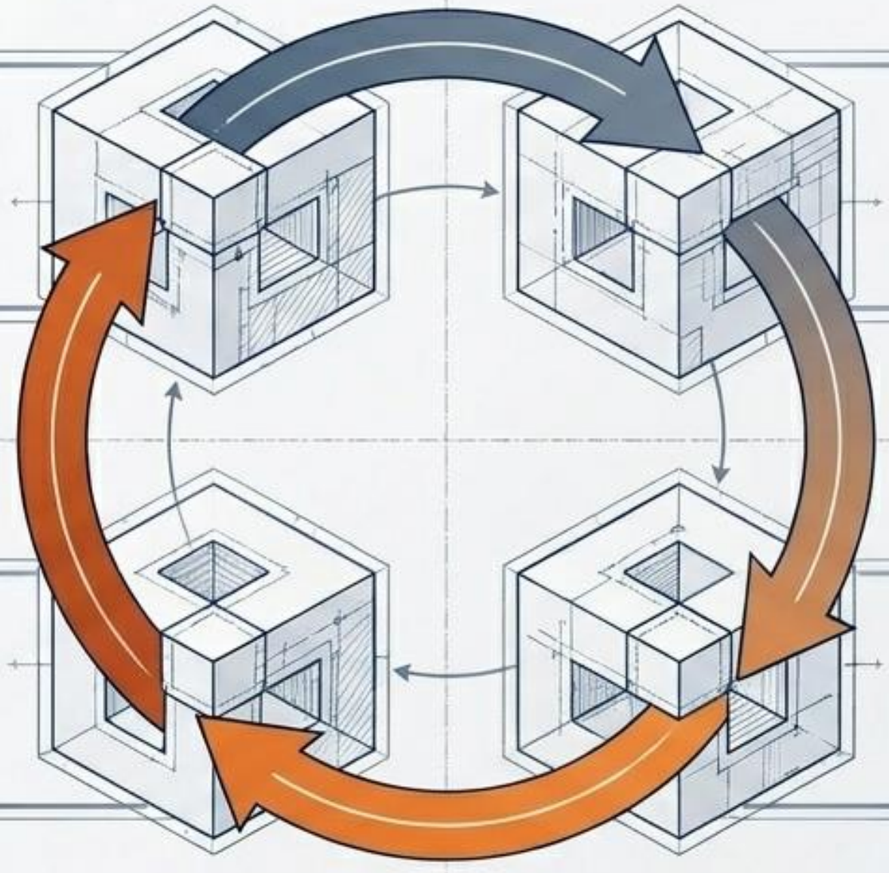
Added technological horsepower, security, and shared tools built on top of the physical layer.

Infrastructure

The foundational physical layer.

Value scales exponentially as you move up the stack.

Shared Need Catalyzes Shared Trust



Shared Constraints
Universities collaborating to solve shared bottlenecks.

Shared Trust
Trust must precede the technology.

Shared Services
Deployment of common solutions and infrastructure.

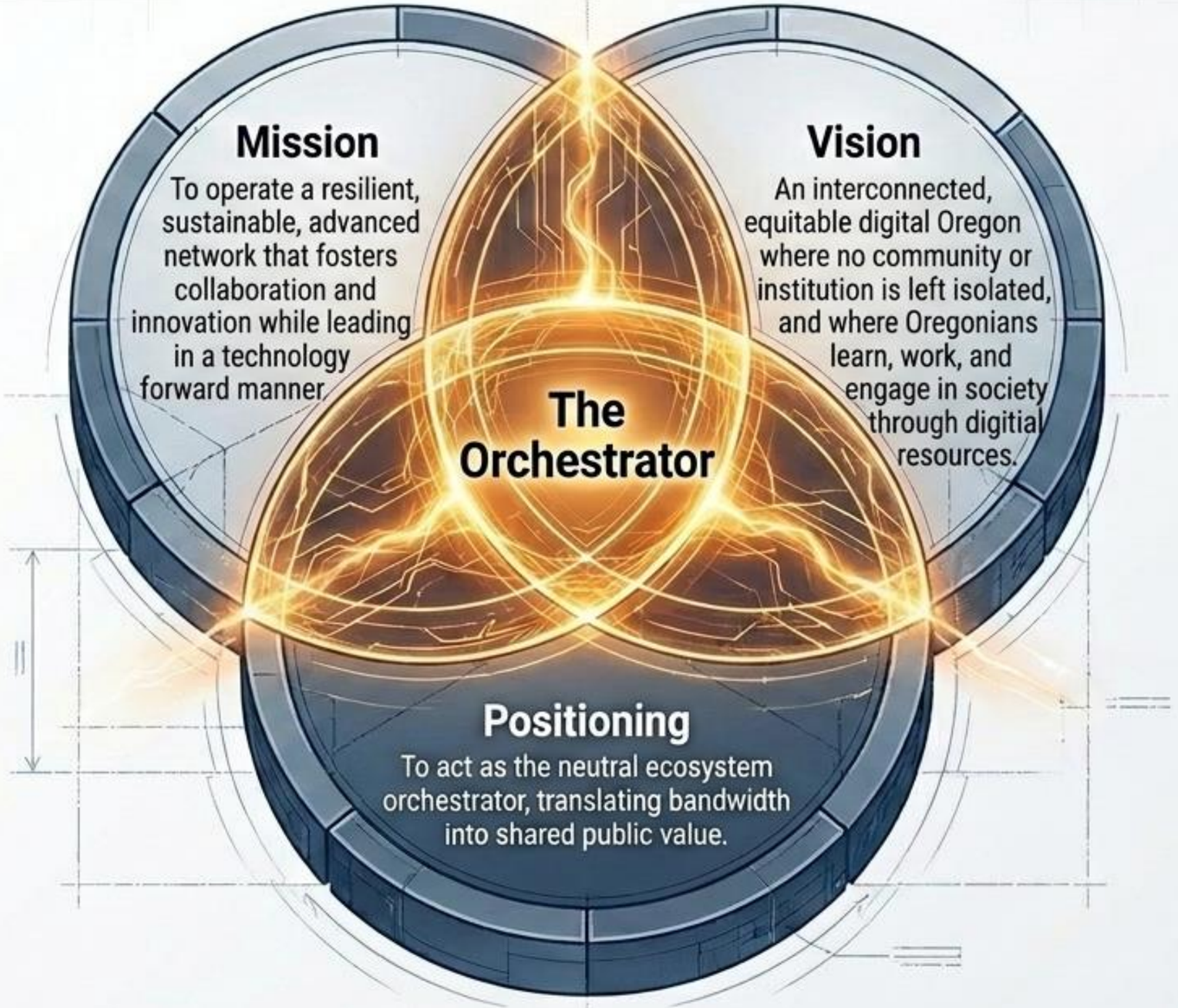
Shared Scale
Expanding the network effect to new regions and sectors.

Infrastructure didn't build the network; shared constraints built the trust that enabled the network.

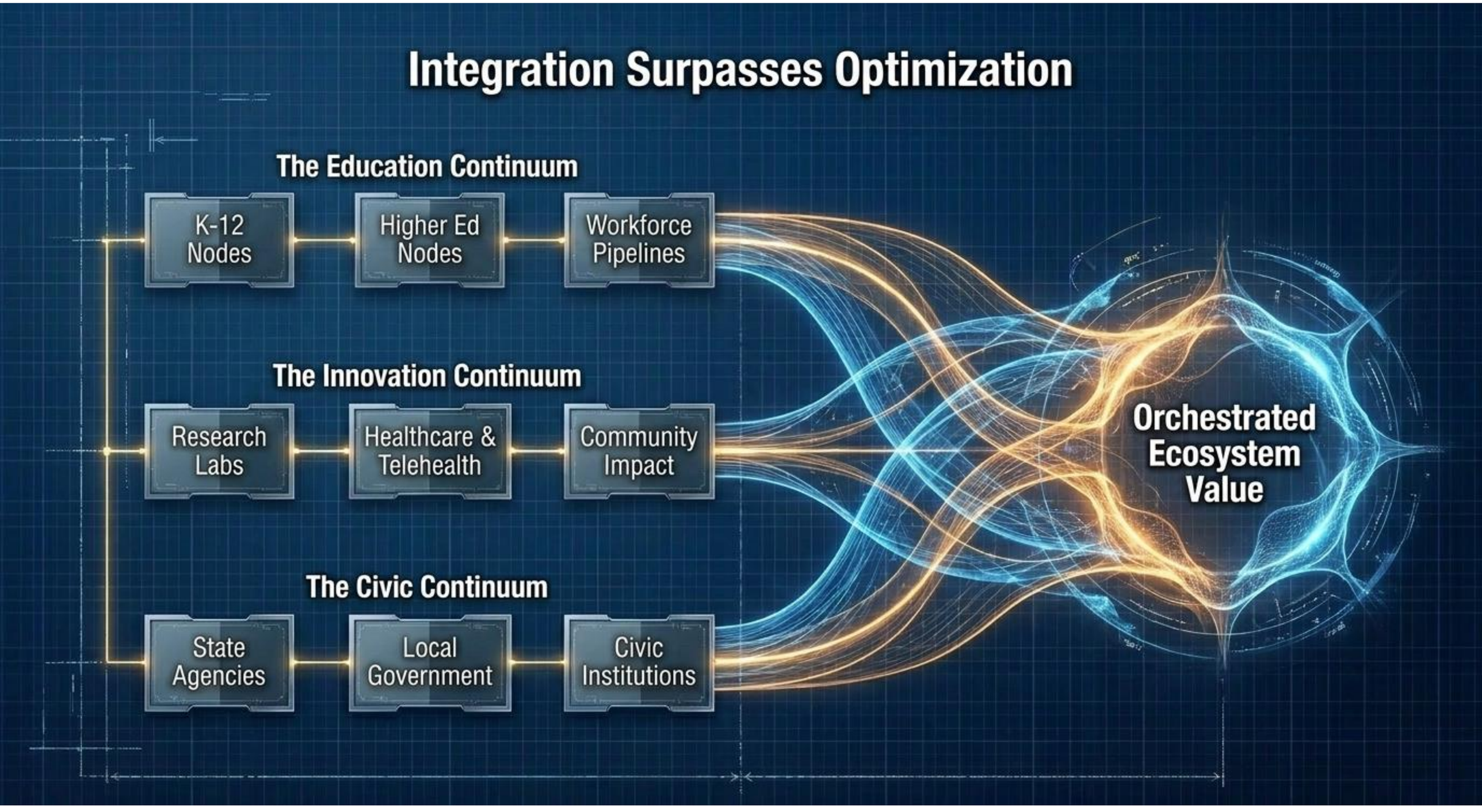
The Shift: From Network Provider to Strategic Partner

Legacy Model	Ecosystem Partner
Shift from Connectivity	Shift to Integrated Services
Shift from Transactions	Shift to Relationships
Shift from Isolated Institutions	Shift to Interconnected Ecosystem
Shift from Cost-Sharing	Shift to Shared Value Creation

Built for Ecosystem Work from the Ground Up



Integration Surpasses Optimization



From Fragmentation to Shared Abundance

Assessment

What do we already have?

Inventory and understand existing assets, resources, and capabilities across the ecosystem.

Alignment

Where do we overlap?

Identify common goals, shared interests, and complementary strengths for strategic synergy.

Acceleration

What can we do together that we can't do alone?

Unlock new possibilities and achieve exponential impact through collaborative efforts.

Oregon as the Model: Four Recipes for Innovation

Security

Shared Cybersecurity Services

Growing beyond baseline protections through statewide threat intelligence.

Access

Telehealth + Education + Workforce

Integrating critical life services with remote training access.

Equity

Rural Innovation Models

Deploying remote learning, virtual labs, and advanced training to disconnected geographies.

Resilience

Public Safety + Hazards Sensing

Collaborative, real-time data sensing for wildfires, earthquakes, and emergency response.

Oregon's Digital Topography: Presence and Potential

Stronger Together is a Strategy, Not a Slogan

The network connects infrastructure.
The ecosystem connects opportunity.