

## **Lita Colligan**

### **Biographical Information**

Lita Colligan is Associate Vice President for Strategic Partnerships at the Oregon Institute of Technology, Oregon's statewide, public, applied science university. Lita is in a leadership role for OIT's Portland Campus, and is responsible for management, marketing, and business and education partnership development.

Prior to joining OIT in 2007, Lita was Oregon Governor Kulongoski's Workforce Policy Advisor. Ms. Colligan's primary responsibility was developing policies and programs to fulfill the Governor's vision to increase access to high-quality education and skills training to drive Oregon's economic growth. She focused primarily on manufacturing, healthcare and renewable energy industries.

As Advisor, Lita was instrumental in the development of the Governor's and the Oregon Workforce Investment Board's strategic plan, *Winning in the Global Market*, that creates a vision and strategies for a highly skilled workforce and globally competitive companies in Oregon.

Lita helped establish the Employer Workforce Training Fund to make strategic investments to train Oregon's current workers and to make our training systems more responsive to the needs of businesses. She also led the formation of the Oregon Healthcare Workforce Institute, and has been the co-leader of the Pathways to Advancement Team to increase access to education for Oregonians.

Prior to working for the Governor, Lita was the Business Development Manager at the Portland Development Commission (PDC), managing PDC's Business Retention, Marketing and Ambassador Programs. She also worked to build business consortia in the bioscience, creative services and professional services industries.

Lita has worked in government, not-for-profit and private sector organizations in the fields of workforce training, communications, publishing and marketing for 30 years. She is a trained mediator and has been an active volunteer in small claims court mediation, and in her children's schools and school foundations.

Lita was awarded a Bachelors Degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1975 with honors, and has professional certificates in Contract Management, Project Management and Conflict Resolution.