

Career Day @ Elemental Technologies

When: Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015
Check-in: 9 am to noon. **Sign in at 8:45 am.**
Industry: Technology, business
Careers: Software engineer, entrepreneur, tech innovation
Note: Accepting up to 22 students. Open to juniors and seniors.

What is Elemental Technologies, anyway? Elemental Technologies is one of Portland's leading tech start-ups. Its employees make software that allows videos to be broadcast online. Its clients include ESPN, Comcast, HBO, the BBC and many others. It has about 250 employees, most of whom work in Elemental's downtown Portland headquarters.

I heard Elemental's CEO is a former PPS student. Is this true? Yes! As a child, CEO and co-founder Sam Blackman attended Portland Public Schools, including Sellwood Middle School. (He told PWA last year that his first successful business venture was selling Jolly Rancher sticks in sixth grade. He would buy them for 10 cents, then sell them for \$1 in the class period right before lunch, when other kids were most hungry.) Blackman majored in electrical engineering in college and worked at Pixelworks, an Oregon company. In 2015, he was named Oregon tech CEO of the year.

Tell me more about Elemental. It was founded in 2006 and grew quickly by helping global clients stream their videos online; it earned a reported \$50 million in revenue in 2014. This September marked a huge milestone for the company. It sold to Amazon Web Services for \$300 million to \$500 million, which The Oregonian reported as the most for a young tech company in eight years. (It will continue to operate under its own name and leadership.) The sale "reflects the explosive growth of cloud computing and the huge popularity of online video enabled by the Portland company's technology," The Oregonian reported.)

What makes Elemental special? It encourages employees to volunteer in the community, especially in education, the environment and hunger. And like many Portland tech firms, it wants to diversify its workforce – partly to expand the local hiring pool and partly to create products that are appealing to a global audience.

What students will do: Tour the Elemental offices; learn about Elemental's journey from small start-up to successful tech company; hear from software engineers and other professionals working in technology; participate in an exercise designed to show high-stakes decisions that Portland business entrepreneurs must make; get advice about how to start a career in technology.

About PWA: The nonprofit Portland Workforce Alliance works with employers and educators to create career-learning experiences for high school students. These opportunities include career days, mentorships and the annual NW Youth Careers Expo, which will be held Feb. 24, 2016. Learn more at www.portlandworkforcealliance.org/