



Happy Birthday
Chris Baldwin II
Love Your Family



PHOTO BY FRED JOE/COURTESY PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Students from northeast Portland's Vestal K-8 Elementary School visit Portland Community College's Southeast Campus for College Night. They ate food and heard from college students about the college experience.

Getting Ready for College and Career Expo brings real world learning

Getting ready for college and career took on new meaning for the more than 3,000 Portland Public students who mingled with some of the region's major employers at the NW Youth Careers Expo earlier this March.

The non-profit Portland Workforce Alliance organized the event. PWA has collaborated with the district since 2005 to build partnerships between Oregon businesses and Portland-area students with the goal of producing a skilled local workforce that can compete for great local jobs.

The partnership is one way PPS is attacking a key priority for the district and Superintendent Carole Smith: helping more students graduate from high school on time, poised to attend college and launch their careers.

Students who are involved in career education are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, according to national research and PPS data. Students who leave high school with a better sense of career possibilities are more likely to go to college, graduate from college and earn a degree on time.

"Figuring out what you don't want to do is just about as important as figuring out the thing that inspires your passion and fuels you," Smith told em-

ployers, students and officials who turned out for a breakfast to kick off the expo. "It's become really awesome, the kinds of things employers are doing in order to create career days, internships, job shadows or hands-on experiences that really allow students to come in and figure out what you do and to see what is going on in the real world."

Several students spoke up about how attending a PWA career day with employers such as

Nike, Mercy Corps, Howard S. Wright, Microsoft and Kaiser Permanente inspired them to dig in deeper at high school. Franklin High School senior Antonio Crosier went from getting ho-hum grades to taking six advanced placement classes after hooking up with the ACE Mentor Program. The after-school opportunity helps high school students find their career passions and educational paths toward family-wage jobs in architecture, construction and engineering. Next year, Antonio will study architecture at Portland State University.

The expo gave Benson High School student Naomi Likayi a chance to tell Tim Williams – executive director of the state office that promotes the development of the film, vid-

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AROUND HERE, THE ONLY THING TAKING YOUR BREATH AWAY IS THE VIEW

ALL ACROSS OREGON, PLACES LIKE VISTA HOUSE, COLLEGE CAMPUSES, STATE PARKS, CITY PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS ARE SMOKEFREE

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