

Grant focuses on preschool children

By Christine Coffin
Correspondent

BEND — The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Oregon State University(OSU)-Cascades researcher Shannon Lipscomb a \$1.5 million grant to develop and test a program to help teachers improve the school readiness of preschoolers who have been exposed to trauma.

The four-year grant from the Office of Early Learning is the largest award ever for OSU-Cascades, the OSU branch campus in Central Oregon. A priority of the U.S. Department of Education is to enhance learning and development for children with high needs through early learning programs.

“Research shows the importance of high quality early learning experiences for children’s later success not only in school but also in other key aspects of life such as avoiding criminal behavior,” said Lipscomb, an assistant professor in the human development and family science program. “Quality early learning may be even more important for the approximate five million children in the U.S. who experience trauma each year. They tend to have more difficulties in school, including behavioral and academic problems, and school drop-out. Giving preschool teachers effective strategies to help these young children could significantly change the course of children’s lives.”

Lipscomb, affiliated with OSU’s College of Public Health and Human Sciences, is an expert on early childhood development. She focuses on

preschool and early child-care experiences, and how those early social experiences help children prepare for success in life. Her work focuses on children from at-risk backgrounds including children from low-income families, those with genetic risk for behavioral problems, and those exposed to trauma. Trauma can be a result of child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, parent mental illness, parent substance abuse, homelessness or parent incarceration.

The research project will focus on teachers in Head Start, child-care, and preschool programs in Central Oregon. Head Start is a federally funded program focused on school readiness for children and families living in poverty. Over 500 children in Central Oregon attend Head Start each year and thousands attend other early learning programs. Selected teachers will engage in online classes to gain knowledge about childhood trauma and how to promote learning and development in children exposed to trauma. Regular video coaching sessions will help teachers take their understanding and incorporate it into practices in the classroom with children.

A benefit to the online and video implementation is its ability to reach teachers in rural areas, where professional development programs may not be available.

Both the teachers and children will be assessed regularly to determine how well the program helps to improve teacher’s knowledge and readiness, and the children’s functioning, stress, and classroom engagement. The project will run

through 2019. After this program is developed and tested here in Central Oregon Lipscomb’s team hopes to make it available to early childhood teachers throughout the country.

“ Giving preschool teachers effective strategies to help these young children could significantly change the course of children’s lives. — Shannon Lipscomb

Partners in the grant include the University of Oregon, the University of Southern Maine, NeighborImpact, The Early Learning Hub of Central Oregon, Trauma Informed Oregon, Oregon Center for Career Development in Childhood Care and Education, and Chastain & Associates, LLC.

The grant includes funding for two staff researchers. Undergraduate and graduate student workers and volunteers will also participate in the research, assisting faculty in developing the program and collecting data to evaluate it.

Human development and family sciences is one of the largest degree programs at OSU-Cascades. Students and faculty in the program study how people develop within the context of families, schools, work, communities and other social-cultural environments. Graduates work in services sectors including education, non-profits, counseling, health care and government agencies.

Feds want to garnish wages of former eco-saboteur

PORTLAND (AP) — The U.S. government has filed papers to garnish the wages of a Portland State University official, to make him pay more in restitution for his role in a pair of eco-anarchist fire-bombings.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kathleen Bickers filed a writ of garnishment against 33-year-old Jacob D.B. Sherman last week, *The Oregonian* reported.

Sherman served nearly three years in prison after pleading guilty to firebombing logging trucks and equipment at two Oregon companies in 2001, when he was 19. He was linked to the Earth Liberation Front, which the FBI says is an eco-terrorist group.

A judge ordered Sherman and his co-conspirators to pay restitution for the damage they caused. Sherman’s share was \$55,100, and he still owes \$43,804.

Sherman says he’s paying regularly, but can’t afford to pay more.

He was arrested after confiding to a girlfriend that he had helped set fire to some logging trucks and that the FBI was tailing him. When she mentioned that her dad was a deputy state fire marshal, he warned her not to tell him. But she did.

Sherman was arrested at

age 20. He got out of prison in 2006, returned to college, earning a bachelor’s degree and then a master’s in leadership and sustainability education.

Early last year, he was named the Institute for Sustainable Solutions coordinator of sustainability curriculum.

The writ of garnishment filed last week gives Sherman 10 days to respond.

“I’ve been paying my restitution and am committed to paying my restitution,” Sherman told *The Oregonian* on Friday. “It’s unfortunate the government has taken this step. I’ve been told that two co-defendants are delinquent.”

Earlier this year, the *Portland Tribune* carried a feature story about Sherman’s transformation from a long-haired vegan, bumbling eco-arsonist bent on sabotaging corporations to a meat-eating, marathon-running family man who works within the system.

Sherman explained that he has a family now, student loan debts, and has dutifully made the minimum \$50-a-month restitution payments. He said he would pay more if he could afford to.

“I’m definitely not living the high life,” he said.

Celebrating 40 Years in Sisters!

The Hair Cache 152 E. Main Ave. • 541-549-8771

DROP-IN PUBLIC YOGA CLASSES
7 DAYS A WEEK!

life.love.yoga.
YOGA STUDIO & ECO BOUTIQUE
164 N. Elm St., Sisters
541.390.5678 | www.lifeloveyoga.com

CLEANING SERVICES
Specializing In:
Windows & Screen Cleaning
Home & Rental Cleaning
Construction & Deep Cleaning
Gutter Cleaning
Free estimates!
BLAKE, SON & COMPANY
INSURED, LICENSED & BONDED
JEFF BLAKE • 541-549-0897

Old-World Quality, New-World Charm
Hand-forged ironwork that transform your home

Come visit our showroom in the Sisters Industrial Park today!

Ponderosa Forge
Sisters, Oregon

541-549-9280 | PonderosaForge.com | CCB# 87640

COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERIES Member of WE HONOR VETERANS Program

Special Needs Planning for Your Loved One

What are the pitfalls?	How has the Affordable Care Act affected my planning?	Get updates on the latest changes.
What are the basics?		

PRESENTER: Mark Mintz, Vice President & Senior Financial Advisor, The Singer Mintz Singer Group

Friday, July 24, Noon-1:00 pm
at Partners In Care, 2075 NE Wyatt Court, Bend
No cost. Light lunch provided.
RSVP to lisamh@partnersbend.org or call (541) 382-5882

(541) 382-5882 partnersbend.org
Hospice | Home Health | Hospice House | Transitions | Palliative Care

Partners In Care