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Student Future Fund dinner raises money

Brian Womack
Oregon Daily Emerald

About 100 students attended the first University Student Future Fund dinner Tuesday night, in an effort to raise money and foster the relationship between students and community leaders.

Paul Kalil, ASUO fund raising coordinator, said the dinner raised \$3,300 for the fund which will benefit services such as Saferide, Sexual Assault Support Services and recycling.

"A lot of this is to plant a seed in the community's mind that students are out there," Kalil said.

Leadership awards were given to almost 90 University students in attendance who were nominated by academic departments and by the Career Center, the Dean of Students Office and the ASUO.

"It's good to support future leaders," said Barbara Beddon, campaign director for the Lane County United Way.

Community and business representatives included Northwestern Mutual Life, the Symantec Corporation, United Way and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored

People.

"It's the ASUO's desire to forge bonds with the community which can lead to investment. Anytime students and student organization get together with community leaders, you benefit with a better understanding and potential jobs," said Dusty Miller, director of the EMU.

The dinner is a "spring board" for the Student Future Fund, a division of the University Foundation, Kalil said. Its goal is to raise money for the contractual parts of the ASUO budget. The fund raising now totals about \$5,000 which has also entailed direct solicitation of businesses for donations.

"If tuition goes up, things like these will get cut," Kalil said.

This fund will partly contribute to some of the contractual parts of the budget so they can stay on campus, Kalil said.

"The eventual goal is to lower incidental fees," he said.

The second week of May, a new board of trustees will determine what contractual parts of the budget will be funded.

Joshua Thomas, a student attending the dinner said, "This (dinner) was a really good start. Hopefully, the success of this program can continue."

ASUO to allocate funds for computer purchases

Amy Columbo
Oregon Daily Emerald

In the eyes of ASUO vice president Mark Rhinard, it's another connection to the information superhighway.

Rhinard has been working since last fall to obtain a \$10,000 chunk of money from the University administration to provide student groups with computers for their offices.

The money was allocated by John Moseley, provost and vice president for academic affairs, from the University's technology fee.

"There is a great concern in our society today, especially on our campus to get involved with the information highway," Rhinard said. "Recognizing that, it was my opinion that students shouldn't be left behind," he said.

A committee of student senators, including Rhinard, met last week to set requirements for the application, which is available today in the ASUO office.

Rhinard would like to see the Student Senate and the ASUO Executive allocate matching funds, bringing the total amount of money available to allocate to student groups up to \$30,000. Currently, Rhinard has only secured funds from the administration.

The money can be used for the purchase of computers; printers are not included. Student groups can apply for a Mac Performa 636 with a monitor and keyboard, worth approximately \$1,500.

Student groups can also apply for up to \$2,000 towards a better computer system if the group can justify why it needs a different system. If a group requests this option, the committee will match program fund raised dollars two to one.

To apply, student groups must be a recognized ASUO program with an approved goal statement. The application is due in the ASUO office by Friday, April 21.

Rhinard said programs should plan to use the computer for access to the Internet and for instructional technology use.

"They could have the potential to start a news group to help them organize and mobilize," Rhinard said.

Small businesses will offer agenda to Bill Clinton

Samantha Martin
Oregon Daily Emerald

Local small business owners will have the opportunity to present a small business "action agenda" to President Bill Clinton and Congress this summer to help determine the strength and role of small businesses in the next century.

Authorized by Congress in August 1993, the White House Conference on Small Business this summer will be an opportunity for state delegates to present a platform of issues and concerns of small business owners nationwide. The last conference was in 1986.

Currently, a series of state and regional conferences are being conducted to unite thousands of small business representatives nationwide to identify and discuss key issues of concern to small business people and increase awareness of the role that those businesses play in the national economy.

"Congress decided that it was time to do an assessment of the needs of small business owners, so they enacted the White House Conference," said Ron Johnson, chief of business development of the Small Business Administration in Portland.

Oregon delegates will attend a

preliminary Western Regional Conference in San Francisco on May 5 to determine which issues are of greatest importance to present at the national conference in Washington, D.C. To qualify as a delegate, the participant must reside in that particular state and be an owner, corporate officer or employee of a business that employs fewer than 500 people.

A minimum of 10 delegates from each state will be selected to attend the national conference, which will be June 11-15, and the number of delegates is determined by the state's population. Oregon will send 22 delegates, 14 of which were elected at the Oregon Convention Conference on March 23, and the remaining eight were appointed: one by Gov. John Kitzhaber, two by Senators Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood, and five by state representatives.

Kathy Leighton, president of the Coffee Corner in Eugene, was appointed by Rep. Peter DeFazio to be one of the Oregon representatives at the national conference. Leighton started her first Coffee Corner 19 years ago and is currently opening her sixth location.

DeFazio said that he appointed Leighton because she represents successful small business-

es that continue to be concerned about a wide range of issues.

"Small businesses like Kathy's that pay employees decent wages can begin to plug some of the holes in the problems faced by small business owners," DeFazio said.

DeFazio said that having a woman delegate sends a good message to the nation as more and more women are starting small businesses.

One of the key issues Leighton would like to see improved is the rising cost of health care insurance for employees of small business owners.

"I spend \$26,000 a year for worker's compensation plus health benefits on top of that," Leighton said, who has approximately 76 employees. "I'd like to see something changed there."

She also said that since many small businesses serve as a training ground for employees who later leave to work for large corporations, small businesses should receive the same tax breaks as large corporations.

"Small business owners provide a tremendous amount of jobs and training for the community," Leighton said. "Unlike large corporations that pick up and move to other countries because of the cheaper labor, we stay in the

community — we are an integral part of the community."

Clinton will spend an entire day meeting with the nationwide delegates and addressing their concerns as small business owners. Leighton said she believes the reason the President is focusing so much attention on the conference is somewhat related to the upcoming presidential election race.

Joan Shea, president of Changing Creatively, a Eugene consulting firm, is one of the 14 small business owners elected to be a delegate.

Shea said she first heard of the conference from an Internet news group discussion between small business owners.

Shea also said that most of the focus will be on issues such as capital formation and taxation, community revitalization, human resources, environmental policy and regulatory and paperwork burdens.

Her primary concern is getting back the tax deductions for health premiums that Congress has eliminated.

"If small business owners could get an incentive to have insurance, like the tax breaks that large corporations do, more (small business) owners would carry it," Shea said.

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