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Diversity planner to leave University

Gregory Vincent has spearheaded the five-year Diversity Action Plan; for 'personal and professional reasons' he will leave his position in June

BY AYISHA YAHYA
NEWS EDITOR

Gregory Vincent, the vice provost for institutional equity and diversity and the key figure behind the University's five-year Diversity Action Plan, will leave the University on June 30 after a year and half on the job.

Vincent has been appointed vice provost for inclusion and cross-cultural effectiveness at the University of Texas at Austin. He begins work in Austin Aug. 1, according to a UT press release made public Monday.

Vincent said he is leaving Oregon for "a mix of personal and professional reasons."

"I have family in Austin and I will be in close proximity to the vast majority of the rest of my family and that was a primary reason why I made this decision," Vincent said. "In addition to that, I am very pleased that I will be able to continue my work both as an administrator and a faculty member around issues of diversity and equity at a peer institution."

Vincent said he anticipates finishing his career at UT, which he called "one of the country's, the world's greatest universities."

"I want to make it really clear that I'm not doing this in response to the issues around the five-year diversity action plan," Vincent added.



GREGORY VINCENT
VICE PROVOST

"I anticipate that given the timing ... that may be the spin, but that's not the reason."

Vincent, who began working at the University in January 2004, has been at the helm of the campus' efforts to create a five-year diversity plan. His position was created specifically to address diversity and equity issues on campus.

The action plan's first draft was released on May 2 and the campus community had been commenting on it during a series of "Community Conversations."

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Assailant suspected of fleeing the state

Officers believe Carlos Alberto Valencia-Torres left Oregon for California to evade police

BY MEGHANN M. CUNIFF
SENIOR NEWS REPORTER

The search continues for the 23-year-old man suspected of assaulting two students in a University residence hall April 24 and returning hours later with a gun.

Eugene police believe Carlos Alberto Valencia-Torres fled to California early last week, Department of Public Safety Lieutenant Herb Horner said.

Horner said Valencia-Torres contacted Eugene police officer Larry Crompton during the week following the incident wanting to tell his side of the story. Horner said Crompton told the suspect he needed to come into the police station and "he said 'I don't think so' and hung up."

Eugene police traced the call to an out-of-area number and called back, but a man answered and told him he was fairly certain Valencia-Torres had left for California.

Crompton was unavailable for comment Monday.

DPS and the Eugene Police Department increased patrol in the campus area during the days following the incident. Horner said while the sense of urgency has decreased, a heightened sense of awareness is still evident.

"We don't believe he's in the state, but we are doing increased patrols," Horner said. "Guys are on bikes on a more regular basis."

Mike Eyster, assistant vice president for student affairs and director of housing, said Bean Complex Director Heather Dumas-Dyer met with students in Bean Complex's Willcox Hall, the hall where the alleged assault took place, to talk about safety issues and to

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CARLOS ALBERTO
SUSPECT

E b o n y Excellence

The Ebony Man Showcase honored 10 black students for public service and academic excellence

BY AIBING GUO
DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

University student graduate Cory Mainor said he has had memories of his first several years at the University, including one in which he dropped out because of a poor GPA.

But he's back at the University with an excellent academic performance and public service record, and he's going to start graduate studies at the College of Education in the fall.

"I have been through all those struggles, but I overcame them ... and now I'm back," Mainor said after he was given an award during the Black Women of Achievement's Ebony Man Showcase on Monday night in the EMU Ballroom.

Mainor's excellent record, especially his spirit in the face of

adversity, makes him an inspiration for other black students on campus, two show speakers said when introducing him in the showcase.

With Mainor, nine other students, including eight men and one woman, were honored during the ceremony. All had excellent academic records and were widely recognized by the University's black community for their public service.

The award ceremony was arranged like a big party. People sat around large tables enjoying food, while song and dance performances were staged between award announcements. Large paintings, mostly composed by black students, were also on display at the back of the ballroom.

Freshman Jontae Grace, a

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NICOLE BARKER | PHOTOGRAPHER

Andriel Brown sings at the Ebony Man Showcase on Monday night. Black Women of Achievement hosted the event honoring outstanding black students at the University.

Committee grants journalist Payne Award for ethics

The journalism school is honoring Jon Leiberman for his public protest of Sinclair Broadcasting Group's subjective election coverage

BY ADAM CHERRY
NEWS REPORTER

The School of Journalism and Communication gave an award to a controversial figure in the journalism industry last Thursday despite Sinclair Broadcasting Group questioning the decision.

Jon Leiberman was honored with a professional citation by the judging committee of the 2005 Payne Awards. Leiberman, formerly Sinclair's Washington bureau chief, was fired after publicly protesting his employer's decision to air programming critical of John Kerry days before the 2004 election.

Leiberman alleged that classifying the Kerry

documentary as news resulted in unbalanced news coverage.

Sinclair President David Smith sent a letter questioning the Payne committee's logic when the journalism school announced it would honor Leiberman.

Journalism and Communications Dean Tim Gleason said Smith's protest was based on the finding of the Maryland Department of Labor, which restricted Leiberman from receiving unemployment benefits because he committed "gross misconduct" in speaking to the press without permission.

The journalism dean answered Sinclair's query in a letter to the company dated May 9.

"The Maryland Department of Labor finding that Mr. Leiberman had violated provisions of his contract prohibiting speaking to the press/media without permission and the sharing of proprietary information outside the company does not negate the fact that he acted in order to uphold values that are central to the practice of journalism in the public interest," the letter reads. "It was a principled stand in the face of significant pressure."

Gleason said Sinclair's letter prompted the judging committee to revisit its decision to honor Leiberman.

"They gave us information that we didn't have," Gleason said in an interview. "We did look at that award in the context of that new information and confirmed our original decision."

"We believe he violated his contract in order to uphold journalistic principles of fairness and

balance," Gleason added.

The Sinclair Group could not be reached for comment on Friday or Monday.

Anthony Warren, membership chair and chairman-elect for College Republicans, said he thought giving Leiberman an award for ethics might be a stretch, but didn't want to accuse the journalism school of partisanship.

"I don't think it's fair that they can approve this as an ethical issue because there was never any certainty as to who was being honest or dishonest," Warren said. "The award doesn't fit the context it's being given in."

Gleason said the decision was based solely on journalistic principles rather than politics.

"The politics of the situation had absolutely nothing to do with the decision," Gleason said. "Presumably, if the politics had been reversed, our decision would have been the same."

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