

# Appeal Tribune

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People gather for a wellness day at Capaces Leadership Institute as the organization celebrates its 10th anniversary.

BRIAN HAYES / STATESMAN JOURNAL

## A future of Latino leaders

### CAPACES prepares a future wave of leaders to lead their communities

**Dora Totoian**  
Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

In 2018, while searching for community as a recent college graduate, Jules Martinez Plancarte signed up for the People's Representatives training through the CAPACES Leadership Institute in Woodburn, designed for Latinx people to explore serving in elected or appointed decision-making bodies.

The 26-year-old described instantly feeling welcome, and considered running for office down the road.

But when the Newberg City Council had a vacancy in January 2020, the timing was right, she said, and she became the first Latina to serve on the city's council.

"If I wouldn't have had that support and network from the CAPACES Leadership Institute, I don't think I would've taken that step so early on in my career," Martinez Plancarte, now also a staff member at CAPACES, said. "We're not just serving the community, we're working and co-creating with the community."

On July 13, the CAPACES Leadership Institute celebrated its 10th anniversary. The organization, part of the Alianza Poder network, supports leadership development in Latinx communities, with

a focus on strengthening political consciousness and eliminating social disparities.

"Part of it is to have the communities' experience at decision-making tables...given the demographic changes we've experienced," CAPACES executive director Jaime Arredondo said, describing one CAPACES program. "And we want to also emphasize this isn't about the representatives, it's about the people they're representing."

The network's other organizations, such as the farmworker union PCUN, Mano a Mano and Farmworker Housing Development Corporation, arose out of need, while CAPACES emerged from opportunity, Arredondo said.

"We're not responding to emergencies here. We're built on opportunity, on the future, on self-actualization," Arredondo said. "We try to marry community wisdom with institutional knowledge—that's kind of our secret sauce."

The programs at CAPACES, the plural of "capable" in Spanish, encourage civic engagement, support young people in their leadership development and connect families to their agricultural and culinary heritage.

The organization also serves as the backbone of the Oregon Latinx Leadership Network, a group of over 100 community-based organizations started amid the pandemic.

#### 'Our past is very deep'

While CAPACES is turning 10 this week, the organization was decades in the making, Arredondo said, going back to the founding of PCUN in 1985, and to the creation of the Willamette Valley Im-

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migration Project in 1977, started to support undocumented workers in response to increased immigration raids in the state.

More than a thousand people walked through the doors of the original blue house of PCUN to process their immigration papers after the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, Arredondo said, including his father and father-in-law.

The lumber from that house was used in the new CAPACES building, which relied on community members to pull weeds and put up the building's walls, Arredondo said.

Community members also rallied in 2012 to change a Woodburn city ordinance to allow public murals, making way for the mural depicting the history of Woodburn's farmworker movement on the building and for other murals that now color downtown Woodburn.

The mural reflects CAPACES' empha-

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## There were 1,101 reports of hate, bias in Oregon last year

**Dianne Lugo** Salem Statesman Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Oregon's second annual report on hate crimes and bias shows reports of incidents against people of color spiked in 2020 during the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement and later the presidential election, and continue to rise this year.

And in more than 30% of the incidents reported, the perpetrator was a police officer or some other government employee.

The report released this month describes data collected by the Oregon Department of Justice's hotline. The hotline records reports of bias incidents and connects victims to various resources.

Victims reported hundreds of incidents of harassment, vandalism and assault perpetrated in large part by strangers but also by the government. The data are a first glimpse at how Oregon's changing bias crime laws and new efforts to connect victims with resources has perhaps helped uncover more victims in need of support.

The report is a result of Senate Bill 577, which passed during the 2019 legislative session and changed bias crime reporting criteria. It also directed the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission to review data about bias crimes and incidents during 2020.

Additionally, SB 577 required the Department of Justice to establish a hate crimes hotline dedicated to assisting victims, witnesses and other reporters of bias crimes and incidents. The hotline opened in January 2020.

#### More than 1,000 reports of bias

According to the report, 1,101 reports of bias were made to the Bias Response Hotline. Hotline advocates who responded to the reports determined that 304 of them were bias/hate crimes and 606 were bias incidents.

Under Oregon statutes, a bias crime is a verbal, physical or visual crime that is motivated in part or in whole by bias against someone's perceived race, color, national origin, disability, religion, sexual orientation or gender identity. Gender identity was added as a protected class under SB 577.

Bias incidents are someone's "hostile expression of animus towards another person, relating to the other person's perceived race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin, of which criminal investigation or prosecution is impossible or inappropriate."

To make the determination, hotline advocates inquire whether a protected class was involved, whether the incident involved a hostile expression of animus based on a protected class and whether the victim or reporter believes the offender was motivated by bias.

Advocates did not investigate the reports made to the hotline themselves. The report makes clear that the advocates are "centered on the tenet of belief."

Of the 1,101 calls made to the hotline, 492 were reports of harassment (45%). Reports about institutional bias conduct made up 23% of the reports.

The hotline also categorized 142 of the reports as incidents of assault (13%). The other reported incidents types were vandalism (7%), refusal of service (5%), and doxing (1%). The hotline was unable to determine the incident type for 76 of the reports (7%).

#### Race-based incidents the majority

Most of the reports involved race-based targeting (63%). Of those 695 incidents reported, 55% of were reports of anti-Black or African-American incidents.

Anti-Hispanic or Latinx reports made up 16% of the reported incidents involving race and 10% were anti-Asian.

The report adds that the hotline was tracking whether reporters believed their experience was related to health and political events that occurred dur-

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## Oregon's Olympians: Tokyo-bound athletes with ties to state

**Chris Hansen**  
Register-Guard | USA TODAY NETWORK

From July 21 through Aug. 8, America will be rooting for its more than 500 athletes competing in the Olympic Games in Tokyo. But some will hold a special spot in Oregon's heart. They include Oregon natives, current and former University of Oregon Ducks and Oregon State University Beavers, and those who love calling this state home. Here are some of the Olympic athletes with Oregon connections to follow:

#### Jade Carey

**Sport:** Women's gymnastics  
**Oregon connection:** A future Oregon State University student

The 21-year-old from Arizona punched her ticket to Tokyo prior to the Olympic Trials by winning both floor ex-

ercise and vault in the individual event World Cup series. She'll compete as an individual at the games.

She only competed in two events on the second day of trials – bars and beam.

Carey started gymnastics when she was 2. Her parents owned a gym at the time, and her dad, Brian Carey, is now her head coach.

According to Oregon State University, Carey signed her letter of intent with the school in 2017, but has deferred while training for the Olympics. She enrolled in classes in 2020 but did not compete for the Beavers while she continued to train for the Tokyo Games.

She has an aunt and uncle who attended OSU and chose the school "because of the positive team environment and the amazing coaching staff. I also fell in love with the gorgeous campus," according to OSU.

#### Matthew Centrowitz

**Sport:** Track & Field, men's 1,500  
**Oregon connection:** Graduated from University of Oregon, runs with Bowerman Track Club.

The 2016 Olympic champ proved he's still at the top of his game when he finished second by a step to Oregon freshman Cole Hocker during the Olympic Trials last month in Eugene.

A master in-race tactician with a formidable kick, the 31-year-old veteran will be a medal threat in Tokyo during his third Olympic Games.

"I knew where my fitness was (at the Olympic Trials) and I know where I need to get to," Centrowitz said on June 27.

He'll have plenty of familiar faces around him.

Centrowitz is in his second summer

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