

1997 SPIRIT OF PRIDE AWARDS

The Spirit of Pride Awards were first presented in 1993 by the organizers of Pride Weekend to recognize individuals or organizations for their outstanding contributions within the Lesbian & Gay community. Consideration for this award includes visibility in the community, years of voluntary service, leadership in the gay and lesbian community, and service to the wider community. The board of Pride Northwest, Inc. also searches out role models that community members of all ages can look to with pride.

Ron Bloodworth has been active the last 14 years contributing to CAP, Phoenix Rising, Our House, Right to Pride and The Equity Foundation. He is also a founder and co-chair of Educators for Equity, Basic Rights Oregon and GLSTN/Oregon, an Oregon chapter of the Gay/Lesbian/Straight Teacher Network. Ron has worked in the Portland Public Schools as an "out" educator for the past eight years, educating students, teachers and administrators about Gay/Lesbian issues. In his role as an educator Ron has worked hard over the years to advance the rights of Gay/Lesbian individuals.

Stephanie Carnahan is the Director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Educational and Support Services Program at the University of Oregon in Eugene. In this role she serves as advisor, mentor, counselor, sister and good friends to LGBT students. She received high marks from students for her Greek Social Issues class, in which she explores homophobia and heterosexism with members of student fraternities and sororities. Her personal commitment, enthusiasm, and leadership have insured a significant impact to the entire University of Oregon campus, as well as the surrounding community.

Brian L. Crosby-Payne has played an important role in Brother to Brother over the last two years. Brian had a vision to start a support group for African American gay and bisexual men and organized F.R.I.E.N.D.S. with the support of the Urban League of Portland and Cascade AIDS Project. Both the Hooper Detox Center and Urban League have benefitted from his efforts as an HIV educator. Brian has also been selected to participate in the Western States Center 1996-1997 Advance Leadership Mentorship Program, a training program for a select group of progressive community leaders chosen from an eight state region.

The Portland Bisexual Alliance has been championing the cause of bisexual advocacy since 1995. PBA represents the bisexual community at sexual minority community meetings, advocates for the interests of bisexuals, holds discussion groups twice a month on a variety of topics and organizes social events for its members and the public. Portland's first Bi Day will be held by PBA in Pioneer Courthouse Square on Friday,

June 27th, as part of Bi 2000 - PBA's plan to bring 2000 bisexuals together in the year 2000.

Ken Morris has become a figure of national prominence within the female-to-male transsexual community in less than two years. In 1995 Ken joined the Board of Directors of the Filisa Vistima Foundation, an Oregon nonprofit corporation which obtains medical and legal assistance for transsexuals in need. A year later Ken co-founded the national TransMale Task Force. Ken has been a prolific activist, testifying on transsexual issues before Metropolitan Human Rights Commission and at the state legislature. In addition, Ken has been in the fore-front of the effort to retain medical recognition of transsexualism.

Janice Thompson is a human rights activist from Yamhill County. Since 1995 she has been board chair of the Rural Organizing Project, overseeing the statewide network of human dignity groups. She is also board chair of Neighbors Talking to Neighbors, an organization she founded to organize local opposition to Ballot Measure 13. Last fall, in response to the suicide of a lesbian teenager, Janice inspired community leaders and youth service providers to form the Coalition for Sexual Minority Concerns. Her activism in McMinnville also led to the incorporation of a local PFLAG chapter and the formation of Purple Haze, a youth support group.

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