

## NORTHWEST newsbriefs

### PRIDE OF THE ROSE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Equity Foundation has named the recipients of the 2004-2005 Pride of the Rose Scholarship Fund awards.

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, Pride of the Rose gave \$25,000 in scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,500 each to 16 Oregon and Southwest Washington students: Aleksandr Peikrishvili, Jennifer Baldwin, Zachary Schreck-enberger and Jaye Sablan of Portland State University; Indira Allegra and Jennifer Fowler of Portland Community College; Galen Murphy of Marylhurst University/PCC; Robert Hein of University of Portland; Vonda Van Farowe of Reed College; Tyler Smith of National College of Naturopathic Medicine; Douglas Hopper and Emily Samuel of University of Oregon; Jessica Hale of Western Oregon University; Cory Burnett of Eastern Washington University; and Rachel-Marie Mohr and Conor Schaye of University of Southern California.

### EUGENE OFFICIALS AFFIRM PROTECTIONS FOR QUEER RESIDENTS

Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey and Mayor-elect Kitty Piercy released a statement Nov. 9 affirming their support of same-sex couples. The statement read:

"In view of the results of the election last week, as mayor and mayor-elect of Eugene, as individuals chosen by the people to hold the office that services all residents of the city, we want to be certain that all members of the community feel safe and secure. Each and every one is entitled to his or her own beliefs and views about marriage, and we all must respect the

crucial value of appreciating diversity, of respecting one another's human dignity and human rights and of enriching our own lives and our community by reaching across differences to get to know one another beyond the stereotypes, as real, complex individuals. That connection is what a healthy community looks like. And at minimum, that respect is what democracy requires."

### BEAVERTON SUPPORTS EQUAL RIGHTS

The Beaverton City Council unanimously passed a nondiscrimination ordinance Nov. 8 that includes sexual orientation and gender identity. The ordinance, similar to those already in place in several communities across Oregon, incorporates existing state law that prohibits discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodation and adds sexual orientation and gender identity.

According to Basic Rights Oregon, the council chamber was packed with supporters who shared stories of discrimination in school, at work and in stores and restaurants. Others felt compelled to stand up for their neighbors, family and friends. After an hour and a half of testimony, council members took turns speaking about the ordinance and why they support it.

BRO reported that Councilor Betty Bode made the motion to pass the ordinance and expressed her ongoing support for human rights. Councilor Cathy Stanton reportedly talked about the need for parity in law, and Councilor Forrest Soth emphasized the need to uphold the constitutional rights of all citizens. Councilor Dennis Doyle stressed the importance of valuing and protecting youth. Councilor Fred Ruby hoped the ordinance would help spread the message that in Beaverton discrimination is not only unlawful, it is unpopular. Mayor Rob Drake echoed the council's unambiguous support.

"The real emphasis is on nondiscrimination," Drake told *Just Out*. "Some folks were worried about special rights, but this is ensuring equal rights."

Drake is responsible for establishing Beaverton's Human Rights Advisory Commission in 1993. He said forming the commission was a proactive step to respond to the city's increasing diversity. Ten-plus years later, he still contends, "There is no place for discrimination in Beaverton."

### QUEER YOUTH CONFERENCE SEEKS PLANNERS

Basic Rights Oregon is seeking people younger than 23 to help plan Oregon Queer Youth Conference 2005, scheduled for Feb. 19 in Portland.

The theme for the gathering is "Getting Past the Stereotypes: From Gutter Punks to Republicans." The conference, which was attended by more than 140 youth from throughout the state earlier this year, is organized and run by youth for youth.

To be part of the planning committee, e-mail [melissa@basicrights.org](mailto:melissa@basicrights.org). For those who wish to attend the conference or lead a workshop, go to [www.basicrights.org/issues/youth.asp](http://www.basicrights.org/issues/youth.asp).

All people younger than 23 who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning and those who care about them are invited to attend. Issues to be addressed include making schools safer and increasing community acceptance of queer students. **JM**

Compiled by MEG DALY, SARAH DOUGHER and PATRICIA L. MACAODHA

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RE/MAX equity group



Eugene Mayor-elect Kitty Piercy and outgoing Mayor Jim Torrey

democratic process and strive to protect the rights of all members of our community.

"We want to remind Eugene residents and city employees that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is and continues to be illegal in Eugene.

"Specifically, we want to assure same-sex couples living in Eugene, and all Eugene residents, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, that you are valued members of our community. We know that you are contributing positively to this community in so many ways. We appreciate you.

"We want to reaffirm that the city of Eugene remains committed to promoting inclusiveness, justice and equality. We ask all of Eugene's community members to think about, and act on, the