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northwest

Continued from Page 11

Those in attendance did agree that art has the power to inform debate about queer issues, foster dialogue and serve as a catalyst for deeper understanding and appreciation of the diversity within the community. For more information visit www.pdxqcenter.org.

10 Years of Action: Sisters Celebrate

The King Elementary School cafeteria was the site for a celebration of Sisters in Action for Power, marking 10 years of leadership development and making change in North and Northeast Portland. More than 150 people attended the Nov. 18 event, which highlighted the accomplishments of young women during the past decade.

Sisters in Action is the first community-based program in Oregon to develop girls' leadership, analysis and collective action skills, training more than 800 young women in safety and self-defense and fighting for the creation of a student bus pass that has benefited more than 200,000 students in the tri-county area.

Youth members presented a documentary video they produced on their recent community efforts to support neighborhood public schools. This moving video tells the story of how young women have spoken out about school closures, academic achievement and the attack on public education at several school board meetings. There was also a presentation on the Girls in Action for Power leadership program.

Sisters in Action for Power is a multiracial, multi-issue intergenerational organization dedicated to developing the leadership of low-income women and women and girls of color by engaging its members in community-driven action campaigns to promote racial, economic and gender equity.

Girls in Action for Power is a structured leadership program for young women ages 11 to 18. They develop leadership, organizing and critical thinking skills through a series of activities like fund raising, public speaking and campaign work. Leaders become empowered and develop confidence as they learn to protect themselves, make positive changes in the community and work for social justice.

For more information call 503-331-1244.

Pride Northwest Changes Officers

Q Center board member Nicole Browning has recently taken over the presidency of Pride Northwest

to fill the vacancy left by Tobin Britton. Stef-Anie Wells steps up as vice president.

Browning reports that Pride Northwest is heavily recruiting for board members and volunteers.

"We'd like to create the best Pride possible," she notes. "It is vitally important that this event occur."

For more information call the Pride Northwest info line at 503-295-9788. Watch the Web site www.pridenw.org for the launch of information regarding Pride '06.

Rose City Mortgage Named Business of Year Finalist


Portland-based Rose City Mortgage Specialists, one of the nation's first socially responsible mortgage companies, is one of 11 finalists for the 2005 Oregon Business of the Year Award from the Better Business Bureau.

"The Better Business Bureau is proud to announce Rose City Mortgage as a finalist for the 2005 Business of the Year Award," says Robert W.G. Andrew, CEO and president of the Better Business Bureau serving Alaska, Oregon and western Washington. "This prestigious award recognizes excellence in the marketplace and a strong dedication to customers, employees and the community in which they serve."

Rose City Mortgage gives back to the community in a number of ways. For example, it donates \$100 at the completion of each loan to a nonprofit of the customer's choice. In addition, Rose City and its employees actively participate in events that benefit the sexual minorities community and support other causes whose missions align with its and its customers' values. The firm also consistently applies green business practices.

In honor of these policies, Rose City owner Renee Spears recently received the Orchid Award as a Portland Businesswoman of the Year, and the firm earned the Portland BlueWorks Award for reducing waste, recycling and buying recycled products.

The Better Business Bureau chooses companies for the Business of the Year Award in both small (50 or fewer employees) and large business categories as well as for specific recognition in customer service, community involvement, integrity and innovative business practices.

Spears founded Rose City in 1999. The mortgage broker firm, located in Suite 300 at 5200 S.W. Macadam Ave., now has 14 employees and is licensed in Oregon, Washington and California. 

Compiled by SARAH DOUGHER and JAYMEE R. CUTI



Renee Spears owns Rose City Mortgage, which is one of 11 finalists for the 2005 Oregon Business of the Year Award from the Better Business Bureau.

MARTY DAVIS