



Fonda Jackson

Jackson Receives Award for Excellence

Fonda Jackson has received an Area Director's Award for Excellence from the Portland office of the Indian Health Service. Fonda is the director of the Information Resource Management department and was nominated by the staff. In addition to the award, Fonda received \$1,000.

Comments from staff on the nominating form include the following:

"Several years ago, Fonda reluctantly accepted the position as the director of Information Resource

Management because the department just lost several senior staff members and DIRM was also beginning several major projects. Put simply, the department was a mess ...

"Rebuilding DIRM is one of Fonda's greatest accomplishments ... Over the past few years, Fonda has created a very cohesive and knowledgeable team of employees. She has created a very positive work environment by encouraging her employees to explore and learn new technologies. Today, DIRM is capable of performing almost any task required ..."

The nomination goes on to compliment Fonda's oversight in implementing new technology, coordinating Internet access and e-mail services, and installing a new phone system. "Our ability to access the Internet, read e-mail, or even make a simple phone call is the result of Fonda's dedication to the Indian Health Service," said the staff in the nomination.

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"It was not easy to be proud of who you were after the federal government decided that it could no longer recognize Siletz Indians. It was not easy, when tribal traditions were dying and no ways to keep them ... but somehow, the Siletz Tribe ... set goals ... listened to the concerns of its neighbors and respected their interests ... also listened to its own people, and kept those interests above all others.

"Today, the Siletz are a people who have come a long ways ... their path has not always been an easy one, but I believe it has brought them to the place they are at today ...

"... it has set a course not only for its own future but for other tribes and governments as well ... has worked with citizens and officials at all levels - from city hall to the state Capitol ... the halls of Congress and the White House ... They have met with other tribal governments in Oregon and with Indian people from across the United States. They understood what was right for them and what was not ... have known what they needed and what they could do without. They have not been afraid to go ahead when they had to, but neither have they been unwilling to bend when necessary.

"I doubt that many of us can fully understand what the Siletz Tribe has accomplished - the endless work and the tireless dedication that has brought the Siletz Tribe to this point.

"... the evidence of what the tribe has achieved is all around us. That evidence is in the faces of the Siletz people ... also in the lands of the Siletz Reservation.

"The significance of today's celebration is not only that the Siletz have re-established a land base ... but that they have recaptured a strong spirit for their future.

"Government Hill represents the geographical center of tribal life for the Siletz

New GED Test Arrives in January

To meet the increasing requirements of a high school education and workforce skills needs, the GED test is changing in 2002. The new tests will incorporate the most up-to-date, widely used curriculum standards and standardized assessment practices available.

Oregon has issued 211,170 certificates since 1944. Last year, 9,156 Oregonians earned GED credentials. Nationally, the GED test has served as a bridge to education and employment for an estimated 13 million adults.

The changes to the test affect Oregonians in a variety of ways:

1. Oregonians working toward their GED certificates have until Dec. 31, 2001, to successfully complete the current GED test. A new test will be released in January 2002. Any GED candidate who has not successfully completed the current GED test battery must start again with the 2002 series of GED tests and pay a new testing fee to qualify for an Oregon GED certificate.
2. People who choose to wait until January 2002 to start the GED testing series will find the following changes:

- ⌚ The new tests use real life materials to a greater extent. These materials - editorial cartoons, graphs for economic data, and business memoranda - cut across traditional classroom subject areas and require candidates to process information in multiple disciplines simultaneously.
- ⌚ The new tests require a calculator on half of the mathematics test. The old test did not allow any calculator use.
- ⌚ The new tests continue to emphasize language arts, reading and writing, mathematics, science, and social studies, but have a greater focus on history, civics, government, health, and environmental and space science.

Local GED testing and education centers can be found at <http://www.literacynet.org/oregon/gedframe.html>, or by calling 1-800-322-8715 or the GED Department at your local community college.

The Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development in Salem is currently searching for 8,000 people who began testing for their GED certificates and must complete testing by Dec. 31. It also is trying to notify

people ... where tribal ceremonies take place, where tribal members are remembered and honored ... and to the east ... are timberlands which not only provide income for tribal programs, but allow tribal members to gather plants, bark, and berries for traditional uses and to harvest fish and wildlife for cultural purposes and for personal sustenance.

"... tribal leaders ... recognized that the Siletz Tribe was not a museum or relic ... they knew that the future of the Siletz Tribe was just as important as its past ... set their goals high and accomplished much more than thought possible.

"The Siletz Tribe now has the tools ... to guarantee a bright future for new generations of tribal members. It is legally recognized as an Indian nation and has organized to carry out its responsibilities as a government ... now, has a land base that it can call home and has tribal members who care about their heritage and are dedicated to improving their future.

"Moreover, through hard work, patience, and wisdom, the Siletz Tribe has earned the respect of Indian tribes and other communities in Oregon, the Northwest, and the nation.

"We, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Indians, value highly the ongoing support and encouragement of the Siletz nation and people. They have never attempted to discourage our nation from positive progress or tried to interfere with our sovereignty.

"We are proud to have the Siletz nation and people as allies. We proudly support their land and sovereignty and we know they will always support us."

I think it is fitting to conclude my report with Rudy's final words, "May the Great Creator bless and care for the Siletz people and nation forever."