

American Indian Applicants Sought for Hatfield Fellowship

GRAND RONDE, Ore. – The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has announced that applications for the Mark O. Hatfield Congressional Fellowship are now available. Each year, a Hatfield Fellow serves as an intern for a member of Oregon's congressional delegation.

The Hatfield Fellow is selected from adult American Indian applicants, age 21 and older, who are enrolled members of a federally recognized Tribe in Oregon. If there are no qualified applicants from Oregon, enrolled members of federally recognized Tribes in Washington, Idaho and Montana will be considered.

The successful candidate will intern in Washington, D.C., for nine months (November 2008 to July 2009) and will

receive a monthly stipend, relocation and travel expenses, and tuition for the American Political Science Association orientation.

Deadline for applications is April 18, 2008, at 5 p.m. Applicants then will be notified if they qualify for interviews. Late applications will not be accepted.

Application packets can be obtained by contacting Louis King at the Spirit Mountain Community Fund at 503-879-1462 or e-mail at louis.king@grandronde.org, or by mail at 9615 Grande Ronde Road, Grand Ronde, OR 97347.

The fellowship honors Mark Hatfield for his accomplishments as a United States senator, former governor of Oregon, and for his mentorship of many leaders in their own communities.

OCCC Offers Class on Business Start-ups

The course listed below is offered on a revolving basis through Oregon Coast Community College. For those seeking a business loan through the tribe, this is an ideal course.

Tribal members are eligible for tuition assistance through Adult Education Services at the tribe on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact Cynthia Farlow at the Siletz Tribal Business Corporation, 541-994-2142 or 877-564-7298, or e-mail cfarlow@stbcorp.net.

Business Start-Ups & Tune-Ups: Entrepreneurs Planning for Their Success

Starts: 4/1 (10 Weeks) • Day: Tuesday • Location: Newport High School, Room E8 • Fee: \$180 • Time: 6-9 p.m.

If you own and operate a business, do you have an individualized plan mapped out for your future? Do you know where you want to go and how

to get there? If you are thinking about starting a new business, do you know you are fighting one-in-five odds that you will be around to see your fifth birthday? If you want to turn those odds around, this 10-week course is the place to start.

Successful business entrepreneurs plan for their future success. You need a blueprint to build a house and you need a **business plan** to build your business. This class will help you match your personal and professional goals. You will develop a business plan framework that includes a mission statement, financial forecasts, marketing strategies, location, pricing, personnel and more. Finally, this course will help you develop an operational plan for the day-to-day tasks of running a business.

Included in the fee is a comprehensive book and study guide valued at \$80. (Spouses and/or business partners can attend free, but must pre-register.)

New Requirements Improve Care at Nursing Homes

500 to 700 Additional Nursing Assistants to be Hired

SALEM, Ore. – Calling it a "major step forward in improving the standard of care for one of Oregon's most vulnerable populations," Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Bruce Goldberg, M.D., recently announced new staffing standards for state nursing facilities.

The new rules that went into effect March 1, 2008, mean that Oregon's nursing homes will employ more nursing assistants and that those residents will receive more help with daily activities.

The new standards require day shift assistants to have two fewer people under their care, allowing them to spend more time with each resident. The new rules also mean that Oregon will need approximately 500 to 700 additional nursing assistants by 2010.

"Everyone in an Oregon nursing home deserves to be safe and treated with dignity and respect," said Gov. Ted Kulongoski. "The new staffing rules will mean increased care, increased quality of life for residents and increased peace of mind for their families."

The greater staffing-to-resident ratios will be phased in over three years to allow facilities time to train and hire certified nursing assistants. There are 142 licensed facilities in Oregon, caring for 8,000 residents.

The staff-to-resident ratio will increase again on April 1, 2009. The third phase will require approval from the 2009 Legislature. For a full description of the staffing ratios, go to www.oregon.gov/DHS/index.shtml.

Nursing assistants aid in the daily, basic care of residents, providing everything from assistance in eating and

dressings to helping move from one part of the facility to another.

Oregon's minimum staffing requirements for assistants have not been increased since 1993, which led to concerns that basic care in nursing facilities was suffering. In 2006, Gov. Kulongoski convened a commission to review the issue and make recommendations on how best to proceed to increase staffing levels at state facilities.

The Nursing Facility Staffing Commission reviewed available research on recommended staffing levels and heard testimony from stakeholders, including working nursing assistants. Based on their work, the commission recommended increasing staffing levels and a system of accountability to ensure that facilities are meeting the new rules.

Nursing assistants who testified before the commission emphasized the importance of maintaining dignity and respect for nursing home residents. As one reminded the commissioners, residents could be "your mother, your grandmother."

New standards for transparency and accountability also have been established to ensure that nursing facilities are meeting the new staffing requirements. Facilities must post their daily staffing ratios in public view and report the staffing ratios to the Department of Human Services every quarter.

In addition, an 800 number gives family, friends and stakeholders another tool to use to protect Oregon's most frail residents. Reports of low staffing levels or other questions or concerns about the new rules should be directed to the Department of Hu-

man Services Client Care Monitoring Unit at 877-280-4555.

"Anyone concerned that a facility is understaffed should call us right away," said Dr. Goldberg. "We need the public's help to ensure the greatest possible care for the residents of Oregon's nursing facilities."

The Nursing Facility Staffing Commission convened by Gov. Kulongoski included Sen. Richard Devlin; Rep. Bruce Hanna; Rick Bennett, AARP; Carlotta Davison, a certified nursing assistant; Rick Dillon, Avamere HealthServices; Leslie Frane, SEIU Local 503; Kathy LeVee, Marquis Companies; John Helm, Governor's Commission on Senior Services; and Erinn Kelly-Siel, Governor's Health and Human Services policy advisor.

Jobs Available in Border Protection

We currently are recruiting for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers and border patrol agents.

Please note that these positions are entry level with career potential to higher-graded positions:

- Through Sept. 30, 2008, border patrol agents (vacancy announcement number BPA-08-01)
- There was a CBP officer limited open period announcement from Feb. 11-22. A nationwide announcement will be made in approximately six weeks.

For more information, visit www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/careers/.

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Kurt Arden (Siletz Tribal Member) — Independent Associate
541-404-0724 or email: Kurt@KurtArden.com

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