

NOTICES

Tribal Funding Helps Build OCCC's North Campus in Lincoln City

by Teresa Simmons

"One man's dream, becoming a vision that inspired a diverse county to work together to make the dream a reality ..."

These comments were made by Barbara Jenkins-Gibson, chairman of the Oregon Coast Community College Board of Directors, referring to College President Patrick O'Connor in her opening remarks during the ceremony to celebrate the near completion of the first building of OCCC's North Campus in Lincoln City, Ore.

On July 2, approximately 150 people turned out for a sneak preview of the 20,000-square-foot building that creates a campus of continuing education, from Taft Elementary School to the 7-12 high school, all within walking distance of one another.

A sense of pride, joy and accomplishment could be seen on the faces of the crowd, which included many of the volunteers who worked to bring this dream to fruition.

Guest speakers included representatives of the four partnering entities that were the major players in making the building of the campus a reality: Siletz Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley; Lincoln City Mayor Lori Hollingsworth; Sherry Cummins, president of the OCCC Foundation; and Terry Thompson, chairman of the Lincoln County Commissioners.

With Siletz Tribal Council members Tina Retasket and Frank Simmons looking on from the crowd, Tribal Chairman Pigsley shared that. "One of our Tribe's top priorities is education and this helps fill the need more than you can imagine. It's really an outstand-



Left to right: Siletz Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley, Lincoln City Mayor Lori Hollingsworth, Chairman of the OCCC Board of Directors Barbara Jenkins-Gibson, College President Patrick O'Connor, President of the OCCC Foundation Sherry Cummins, and (standing in back) Lincoln County Commission Chairman Terry Thompson (photo by Teresa Simmons)

ing community achievement that will bring us together, not only now but in the future."

In her remarks, Mayor Hollingsworth noted that the Tribe is one of the major influences in Lincoln City, contributing to the well-being of the community as a whole.

A bond measure passed by Lincoln County voters for \$23.5 million gave the project its start, however, it took a great deal of effort, many meetings, fund-raisers and extensive planning to bring the project to its present state. It's no exaggeration to say that dedication and commitment on a daily basis created the facility. No loans were used

and the expected \$17 million in matching funds from the state dwindled to approximately \$7.5 million.

"Wish it, dream it, do it" was the credo voiced by OCCC Foundation President Cummins and used in the ongoing effort to move this project forward.

County Commission Chairman Thompson spoke with great passion about the opportunities for higher education the facility will create for Lincoln County students who otherwise might not have the option available to complete their education.

This long-awaited day marked the opening of the first new facility built in Lincoln County specifically to house

the college, an affiliate of Chemeketa Community College. Classes have been held in rented make-shift facilities, including an old fire hall in the Taft area of Lincoln City and a remodeled nightclub in Newport.

The new "green" building, as yet unfurnished and in need of equipment, is expected to be fully operational by the fall of 2008.

The Tribe's collaboration with other entities to help build this building accentuates the ongoing positive economic effect and the improvement of the quality of life that the Siletz Tribe has on the surrounding community through interaction and monetary contributions.

According to the June 13 issue of the *Portland Business Journal*, "The growing philanthropic gifts (from Tribal casino donations) come at a critical time for the organizations, many of which have dealt with dwindling federal and state funding in recent years.

"Five tribal foundations funded through a portion of casino profits have boosted their combined giving by 330 percent over a decade to \$7.4 million in 2007, according to the most recent data collected by the tribes. Altogether the tribes – including The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation, The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, The Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians and The Coquille Indian Tribe – awarded \$76.4 million in grants between 1997 and the first quarter of 2008. Dollars are dispersed all over the state and non-profits, government entities and tribes reap the rewards."



Alice Werth shows two participants how to make a shawl during Culture Camp. Prior to the three-day event, several elders in the Salem area, including Alice, cut more than 100 pieces of cloth for the shawls that were made during the camp. (photo by Diane Rodriguez)



Partners in the Community

Dorothy Bishop from Operation Care Package and Diane Kusz, manager of Tanger Outlet Center, accept a check for \$250 for Stuff a Boat presented by Jim Kikumoto, general manager of Chinook Winds. Stuff a Boat is an annual event held at Tanger to raise funds to send needed personal items to our troops overseas. A long list of items, including socks, personal hygiene items, books and playing cards, is collected for shipment (they actually stuff a boat). The Human Resources Department at Chinook Winds stepped up and volunteered to gather items donated by staff to be sent to the troops. (photo by Teresa Simmons)