

mean that it's because they don't cover everything. That is also false," said one of the instructors.

Some facts about community college here in Lincoln County are: Oregon has 16 community colleges of the more than 1,000 community colleges (independent and American Indian) across the country. Additionally, OCCC has one of just two Aquarium Science Programs in the country, where only 20 applicants are accepted annually nationwide.

Health services programs include nursing, medical assistant, emergency medical technician (EMT) and occasionally Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) classes. You can get some degrees by having only attended community colleges.

**Casey shares his experience**

Tribal member Terrell Casey is beginning his second year at Portland Community College (PCC) through the Early College High School program (ECHS) offered by the Beaverton School District. He's starting the program this year with 44 credits, taking an additional 15 credits this term.

Terrell is set to graduate high school this winter and continue pursuing his degree in architecture, offered through PCC, until transferring to a larger university.

Terrell goes to college full time, meaning he doesn't even see his high school as a result of how the district set up the program. To him this is a benefit. He loves it, saying "staying in high school would have been a waste of my time. I wasn't gaining the experience or education that I wanted from it. I knew I was ready to move on, it was just a matter of taking that next step. Now at this point, starting my second year in the ECHS program, I can't even see myself going back to the high school."

I asked Terrell to share some of his experiences.

"PCC professors are great. It seems like they're more than willing to help you or explain something to you. They actually teach, unlike high school teachers who teach from a book where you are less likely to receive any sort of education. They don't think that they're better than you because they are the teacher. They're on the same personal level as you are, like more of a friend versus a teacher."

Terrell explained that when he is finished with high school this winter, the school district will continue to pay his tuition until the end of the school year, claiming "you're being set up to succeed!"

In this program, one of the classes required in your first term is designed to help you decide what track you're going to take, helping you map out your path to make sure the degree you're there for is one you really want.

"It sort of double checks that this is what you really want to do. So I did a whole bunch of research on what architects do. I discovered new aspects about the job I hadn't already known. I also interviewed three architects, learning more about the job and its demands," said Terrell.

If you're in high school and are nervous about going to college, please speak with your guidance counselor about what is offered in your school district and get started on some of those entry classes before you graduate! Completing the work now while you're already in school is worth all the time and money saved later.

Have you already graduated high school? Talk to one of the Tribal education specialists; you can find them in Siletz, Salem, Portland and Eugene. Educational resources like these are far and few, they have the experience and resources you need to apply for colleges and other grants

to ease the financial weight of getting your degree. These folks want to help you get all your applications in.

I hope with this piece parents and students will take advantage of what they can accomplish, utilizing anything and everything they can to reach as high as they want and get the job of their dreams.

Thank you to all of the students I spoke with; to Katy Holland, Portland

area education specialist; OCCC staff; and SVECA staff for all of your help! You made so much available for me to gather all of this fantastic information. I am truly grateful for everything.

*If you or someone you know is doing something commendable and want to share it, contact Andy Taylor at andreas@ctsi.nsn.us; or 800-922-1399, ext. 1293, or 541-444-8293.*



Photo by Andrea Taylor

Keionni Goodell (left) talks with an instructor in the Aquarium Science building during a visit to Oregon Coast Community College.



File Photo

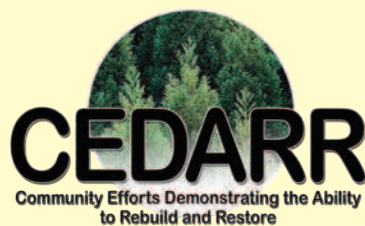
Terrell Casey with his artwork created at A. Susana Santos' Journeys in Creativity Art Camp at the Oregon School of Art and Craft this summer

**CEDARR**

**Community Efforts  
Demonstrating the Ability to  
Rebuild and Restore**

**Mission Statement**

*We will utilize resources to prevent the use of alcohol and other drugs, delinquency and violence; we will seek to reduce the barriers to treatment and support those who choose abstinence.*



**Oct. 4 • Noon**

**Siletz Community Health Clinic  
200 Gwee-Shut Road, Siletz**

**Siletz Tribal  
Behavioral Health  
Programs**

**Prevention, Outpatient Treatment,  
and Women's and Men's  
Transitional**

Siletz: 800-600-5599 or

541-444-8286

Eugene: 541-484-4234

Salem: 503-390-9494

Portland: 503-238-1512

**Narcotics Anonymous Toll-Free  
Help Line – 877-233-4287**

**For information on Alcoholics  
Anonymous: aa-oregon.org**

**Most Often Requested Numbers**

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians –  
800-922-1399

Siletz Community Health Clinic –  
800-648-0449

Salem Area Office – 503-390-9494

Siletz Behavioral Health – 800-600-5599

Salem Finance Office – 888-870-9051

Chinook Winds Casino Resort –  
888-244-6665

Portland Area Office – 503-238-1512

Chemawa Health Clinic – 800-452-7823

Eugene Area Office – 541-484-4234

Bureau of Indian Affairs – 800-323-8517

Contract Health Services (CHS) –  
800-628-5720

Website – ctsi.nsn.us