



## PSU honors Pigsley with award for lifetime achievement

Portland State University's Center for Public Service in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government honored two women for their lifetimes of achievement in public service – Delores Pigsley and Jennie Messmer – at its Celebration of Public Service event on April 28 at PSU's Hoffmann Hall.

The women were recognized at the fourth annual CPS event, which this year had a theme of "Unite, Innovate, Transform."

Pigsley began her public service career soon after the Siletz Tribal nation – with the help of Oregon Sen. Mark Hatfield – was reinstated by the federal government. Her 38 years on the Siletz Tribal Council has included 32 as Tribal chair – a record unmatched in Oregon Indian Country.

She has been a Tribal delegate to the National Congress of American Indians and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and served as chair of the Oregon Legislative Commission on Indian Services.

Pigsley's public service career also included 24 years working for the federal Social Security Administration in Salem, where she rose to the job of operations supervisor before her 1998 retirement.

As noted in her nomination, "An important public service challenge in the realm of Tribal governments is preserving traditional knowledge and ways of life. Delores has been instrumental in overseeing the cultural revival of the Siletz Tribe. The nearly extinct Siletz tradition of basket weaving, including the difficult task of gathering traditional natural materials, has been revived, as has their age-old traditional dance, Nee-Dosh. Currently, the Tribal Council has undertaken the first steps toward the building of a Tribal museum. Though none of this would have been accomplished without the contributions of many, clearly the leadership of Chairman Delores Pigsley has played a pivotal role in the revival of the Siletz."

Messmer's lifetime of public service work and outreach focused on Oregon's local governments. She was an assistant city manager/finance director in Klamath Falls; served as executive director of both the Local Government Personnel Institute and the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments; and stepped in whenever needed to serve as an interim city manager in a number of communities, including Wheeler and Cannon Beach.

Messmer's most visible role was as member services director for the Oregon League of Cities, where she traveled throughout Oregon to assist cities, large



Photos by Andy Taylor

Above: Opal Butler

Right: Rebekah Jones, Tribal Sexual Assault Services Program grant coordinator with the Oregon Department of Justice

Shawl Making with the CARE Program in preparation for National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls on May 5, 2018  
April 25, 2018 • Siletz Recreation Center



### Graduates!

Each year, we publish information on Tribal graduates in *Siletz News*. But we can't do this without you!

We're interested in graduates from all levels:

- Head Start
- Kindergarten
- Elementary school
- Middle school
- High school
- Adult vocational training
- All levels of college

Please email a photo and a few details about your graduate to [pias@ctsi.nsn.us](mailto:pias@ctsi.nsn.us).

We will publish them throughout the summer.

Thank you!

Save the DATE!

May  
19 & 20  
2018  
Siletz  
Indian Fair



Siletz Community Center • 10 am - 4 pm

FREE FOOD!

The Siletz Tribal Arts & Heritage (STAHS) Board would like to invite Tribal families to share their family regalia & traditional arts with the community. You can have your items photographed for your own use and safekeeping with STAHS.

If you would like to reserve a FREE table, call or email us!

## FREE Community Event!



Siletz Tribal Arts & Heritage Society  
PO Box 8  
Siletz, OR 97380-0008  
(541) 444-8304  
[stahs.board@gmail.com](mailto:stahs.board@gmail.com)



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