

Dr. Simon-McWilliams' dedication to education obvious

by Jerry Garner

The vita of Dr. Ethel Simon-McWilliams reveals a career of professional success and dedication to education. Dr. Simon-McWilliams is the Associate Director of the Portland-based Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. She has held this position since April 1980.

The Laboratory is a non-profit private corporation that was established in 1966. It provides research-based educational materials to school districts, corporations and other organizations.

The Laboratory employs 124 staff members, a majority of whom are specialist within a given area. This, says Simon-McWilliams, enables the Lab to carry out the work of a contract or grant.

The Laboratory's funds come from contracts or grants. "Everything we have earned is the result of competition with others for federal and state contracts," says Dr. Simon-McWilliams. The Laboratory's largest contract is with the National Institute of Education, which is the research branch of the Department of Education.

As Associate Director, Dr. Simon-McWilliams assists the Executive Director in the planning, management, and administration of its divisions. Dr. Simon-McWilliams has a Master's Degree in Education from George Washington University,



Washington, DC, and holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Simon-McWilliams' professional career has been devoted to education. She has worked as a classroom teacher, an Assistant Principal in Washington, DC, and Director of Title IX Training Institute in South Carolina. She has also served as Director of the Race Desegregation Center at the College of Education at the University of South Carolina.

As Director of the Race Desegregation Center, Dr. Simon-McWilliams maintained ongoing contact and interaction with the Office of Civil Rights and the Office of Education. She also assisted school systems with the identification and resolution of problems occasioned by race desegregation. Dr. Simon-McWilliams assisted systems with assessing policies and procedures for the identification and elimination of sex and race biases and with the development and implementation of affirmative action plans.

Dr. Simon-McWilliams' job at the Laboratory requires her to travel to service districts in Guam, American Samoa, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. She has served as a consultant in management curriculum and program development in places such as Kingstree, SC and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana

Islands, Saipan.

Education has always been important to Dr. Simon-McWilliams; she credits this to her mother. "School and education were always at the forefront in our lives as children. When I was a young child, I was always given books. It might have been a homemade book made from magazine clippings, but we were always encouraged to read."

When Dr. Simon-McWilliams was asked what should a young person do in order to be as successful as she is, her reply was, "first one should set goals, and then acquire the education to achieve these goals." Dr. Simon-McWilliams says that everyone should continue to strive for the betterment of oneself, no matter what one has achieved.

Besides her demanding professional life, Dr. Simon-McWilliams is active in many civic programs and sits on several committee and boards. She is Chairman of the Poor and Elderly Program Committee, St. Vincent Hospital; on the Board of Directors for Pacific Power and Light; member of the Treasurer/Founders Club; Reed College Women's Committee; Commissioner/Cable Regulatory Commission; and sits on the Board of St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center. Dr. Simon-McWilliams was the first female and Black to hold a chair on the St. Vincent Hospital Board.

Fair Share holiday auction

Oregon Fair Share will hold its Seventh Annual Holiday Auction, Saturday, Nov. 23, at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 4033 S.E. Woodstock Blvd. Silent Auction/Preview from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.; Auction from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

On the block will be unique services, vacation getaways and gifts for the whole family. Of special interest to collectors, there will be seven dolls from a local collection of 2,000 dolls.

The auctioneer will be Steve Talbot. Admission \$1.50; bidding paddle, \$2.00. Door prizes, food, drink and entertainment are also part of the event.

Proceeds will benefit Oregon Fair Share's Research and Education Fund. Oregon Fair Share is a non-profit citizens' action organization. For more information, call Sue Guthrie at 252-9852 or 223-2981.



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