



THE OFFICE OF
MINORITY, WOMEN
AND EMERGING
SMALL BUSINESS

**SUPPORTS
MINORITY
OWNED
BUSINESSES
IN
OREGON**

STATE OF OREGON OFFICE
OF MINORITY, WOMEN
AND EMERGING SMALL
BUSINESS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
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**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:
MINORITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

The office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business (OMWESB) offers an assortment of free services for minority or women owned business that are interested in participating governmental procurement.

- ◆ Certification for participation in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program and for the Emerging Small Business (ESB) Program.
- ◆ Publishes a directory of certified DBEs and ESbs that is distributed throughout the public and private sectors.
- ◆ Provides technical assistance for businesses interested in bidding on governmental construction, service, trade and personal/professional service contracts.
- ◆ Advocates on behalf of DBEs and ESbs.
- ◆ Provides educational workshops to companies and individuals regarding the certification process.

To learn more about how the Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business can help you or your company, please call (503) 378-5651.

OMWESB, in coordination with the Oregon Economic Development Department and Oregon Department of Transportation, encourages the use of a Toll-Free Hotline to answer questions about setting-up and running a small business. the Hotline may be accessed by dialing **1-800-442-8275**

To Be Young, Gifted And Encouraged
Continued from page 15

Gifted) program now includes 117 of the school's 1400 students. As soon as they arrive at Tilden students are taught "critical thinking," a class that Oatman developed in collaboration with experts from the University of Northern Colorado. "We need to teach our children how to think," Tilden's principal, Dr. Hazel Steward, explains. "It's not that they are not well-equipped mentally. They can achieve as well as students anywhere."

For many of these students, the TAG program came as a not-necessarily-pleasant surprise. "I said, 'You've got the wrong girl,'" recalls Tasha, 16. "I thought, 'They'll get our hopes up, and then what if we can't do what they want us to do?'" Many of those chosen for TAG-on the basis of grades, test scores or just ambition-might have looked unpromising. Some are teenage mothers or fathers; some are gang members, or have been.

"If they're gang members, I go after them with a vengeance to turn them around," Oatman says. "I go out on the street and call them over and take them right out of the gang if I have to."

Last year, she got one teenage mother into college. This year, she intends to place many more. "I find schools that can accept young mothers," Oatman says. "They have day care, and some have facilities so that babies can live with their mothers." Principal Steward even worked to arrange a scholarship for a top-ranked student who is the father of twins, which helps keep father, mother and children off the assistance rolls.

To prepare them to achieve, Joyce Oatman first must teach her students to think about how they think. "We drill in major higher-order thinking skills," she explains. The day I visit, one class is working on an exercise of connecting a set of dots to form specific patterns-say, a triangle, a square and a pentagon-with no dots left over and no dot used twice. That may sound simple, but try forming eight specified shapes out of exactly 50 dots and see how easy it is. "I thought anybody could connect dots," Tasha says. "But then the problems got harder and harder, until I was dreaming about dots."

These mental gymnastics help prepare kids to use their minds for the hard work they must do to be accepted

by first-rate colleges. "I take biology geometry, history, English and critical thinking," says Tasha's classmate Candice. In Oatman's program, students also must take physics and chemistry, as well as two years of a foreign language, and four years of English and math. They visit the University of Iowa's Connie Belin National Center for Gifted Education for diagnostic test and counseling and go on weekend retreats with teachers to talk about issues that concern them. One group also gives up its lunch hour to train for next year's American Academic Decathlon-a nationwide competition of talented students.

Can this program work? It did for eight kids at Crane last year. Already this year at Tilden, students have been admitted to schools like Illinois Tech and Northeastern. The University of Iowa has volunteered staff and facilities to help the TAG program develop, and the Flom Foundation has given Tilden a grant to buy computers for a state-of-the-art lab. After school, Oatman teaches other teachers at Tilden how to deal with gifted students. She and Principal Steward are planning to extend those classes to teachers at other inner-city schools next year.

You can see the results already, in the former gang member who says, "I'm going to go to law school." You can see them in the pride in David Philpot's eyes when he talks about the changes in his daughter, Nicole, 17, since TAG began: "She came back from the trip to the University of Iowa with a goal, knowing what she wanted and knowing how to get there. She wants to be a psychologist."

None of these changes surprises Joyce Oatman, though. After 34 years of teaching in some of the nation's most neglected schools, she knows exactly what she can expect to find in them. "People need to know that there are gifted children here," she says. "People who live in the inner city, in the barrio or on the reservation need to know that their children are gifted. There's too much native raw ability going through the cracks. If a child we lose might have had the ability to cure cancer but ends up joining a gang or dealing dope, that's a double loss to the country."

That is a loss Joyce Oatman is determined to prevent.

Fred Carter
Certified Public Accountant



Fred Carter

1978 and became one of the first black CPA's in Oregon.

Born and raised in Portland, he is a divorcee with four children. Mr. Carter also is a member of several organizations. To list a few: The Peninsula Kwianis, Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME), Center For Community Mental Health, Occupational Advisory Committee For Portland Public Schools (chairperson), and Multnomah County Audit Committee.

Although Fred has a wide variety of clients, his specialty is Tax. His business location is 4550 S.W. Kruse Way, Suite 345, Lake Oswego, OR 97035

Fred has a special message for our young people.

"To our precious youth: Sometimes the pathway to what we feel is success may seem tough, but if you keep yourself focused on that pathway, always keeping God as the center of your life and remembering where you came from, you can achieve that success."

Fred Carter graduated from Jefferson High School and from PSU with a Business Administration degree. Fred has worked for Marwick Peat, Mitchell Lavenhol & Horwath. He has been self-employed since 1987. Mr. Carter passed the CPA exam in

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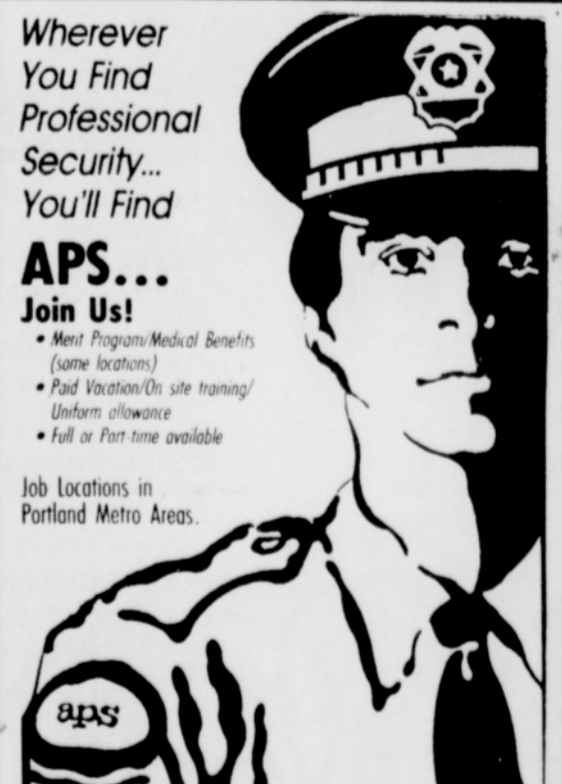
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