

Education

Student Ambassadors Link To Community

Fourteen Portland State University students are part of a newly launched program that's putting a more definable face on the university as it seeks closer ties to its surrounding communities and better communication from within.

Since January, members of the PSU Student Ambassadors program have represented Portland State in a variety of functions, serving as hosts and hostesses at official events, conducting campus tours for special guests or prospective students, and acting as liaisons among current students, faculty and administrators.

"This program helps clarify the message people hear about PSU, both within and outside the university," says Michele Toppe, coordinator of new student orientation programs for PSU's Office of Student Affairs. Toppe oversees the Ambassadors program with student coordinators Jasen Kautz and Sahra Vanderkin.

Already, Ambassadors have represented the university in events ranging from the grand opening of Harrison Hall to PSU's 50th Anniversary celebration. They've also shared infor-

mation about PSU with high school students during the recent PSU Preview Day and the Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement (OCHA) Career Fair.

The program in part grew out of discussions last year in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Student Advisory Committee. Committee members had become aware of a similar program at University of Missouri-Kansas City. Also, Janine Allen, PSU vice Provost and Dean for Enrollment and Student Services, had helped put together a similar program at Western Oregon State College before coming to PSU last year.

Similar ambassador programs already exist at a number of larger colleges and universities nationwide, including Baylor and Stanford universities.

"Ambassadors treat a guest of the campus in a really formal way," says Toppe. "A number of people here thought it was an excellent way to introduce the university to a variety of people—prospective students, visiting scholars, existing students. The



PSU Student Ambassadors (from top, left to right): Bryan McVay, Jason Kautz, Brian Sun Eagleheart, Dean Sasak, Sheila Muckridge, Jeremy Emerson, Joshua Leake, Sahra Vanderkin, Linda Anderson, Savvy Him, Soo Lee, Kim Hardy, Sabrina Pongracz. Not Pictured: C.J. Martin.

Ambassadors can help decrease the intimidation new students may feel coming to a university for the first time."

The PSU Ambassadors Program operates on an annual budget of about \$20,000. Monies come from a variety of sources including the Office of Admissions, Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Student Affairs, and private fundraising through the PSU Foundation.

This year's 14 student Ambassadors came from an original pool of 85 nominees selected by faculty. Finalists were chosen based on academic excellence, communication and problem-solving skills, leadership, and the ability to be a positive, productive team member. Each Ambassador receives a \$400 stipend per academic term. Ambassadors will serve for one year, but may reapply for another year's services.

For Sahra Vanderkin, a senior majoring in biology at PSU, the Ambassadors program provides leadership skills that she believes will come in handy as she prepares to enter medical school.

Sheriff's Internship Program Initiated

Working With Roosevelt High

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office will begin instituting an internship program with the cooperation of Roosevelt High School to support youth community involvement with internship experience.

Sheriff Dan Noelle and Commander Vera Pool of the Corrections Support Division, recently announced the special effort.

The sheriff's department is responding to citizens in the community that emphasis should be placed on refocusing our youth's attention into a positive direction.

An internship is a non-paid, structured work experience.

Students selected will be examining four units of the Mult-

nomah County Corrections Division.

These Units will include Close Street Supervision, Facility Security Officers, Records, and Classification.

The sheriff's office objectives are to provide students with opportunities for on-the-job experience in a professional work setting.

Officials also want to assist in developing a mentor relationship with students who have an interest in the criminal justice system.

Further information concerning the internship program can be obtained by contacting Vivian Feldman, volunteer coordinator at 248-3390.

School Dropouts Increase

Continued from Metro

American Institution, called today's high schools too large, impersonal and rigid.

Many of the report's recommendations describe efforts beginning in Oregon to improve high school education. The report encouraged high schools to create more flexible, active

learning environments and emphasize applied learning that makes sense to students in terms of the real world.

Principals at schools in Oregon where the dropout rate declined attribute many factors to their schools' success, from increased emphasis on tracking down absent students to efforts to engage students in active, real-world learning.

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The Jefferson Dancers present their spring concert series in six shows at the Intermediate Theatre of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, April 30 to May 4 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the theatre box office and all Fred Meyer Fastix outlets :224-TIXX.

Participation In MESA Program



Area high school students recently were recognized for their contributions to the MESA math-engineering-science program. From left: Kayin Talton, Benson High School; Alan Mui, Benson; awards presenter Sam Kim of Hewlett-Packard Co.; Indira Jones, Benson; Cheryl Lyon, Grant High School; and Debby Gordon, Jefferson High School. Not pictured: Lulu Zhang, Marshall High School

Six students from high schools in north and southeast Portland were honored recently for their achievements in Portland-MESA, a program that encourages and assists youth in the field of mathematics, engineering and science.

Receiving special awards were Jefferson High School freshman Debby Gordon, Benson High School

sophomores Indira Jones and Kayin Talton; Grant High School freshman Cheryl Lyon; Benson freshman Alan Mui; and Marshall High School freshman Lulu Zhang during the mid-school Portland-MESA Family Night at Portland State University.

The six students were among more than 60 middle and high school students who participated in the family

night with their parents. Portland-MESA, administered through PSU's School of Engineering and Applied Science, aims at increasing the number of ethnic minority students in the math, engineering and science fields through after-school and weekend workshops, field trips and projects. Now in its 11th year, the program serves more than 165 students t 10

area middle schools and seven high schools.

Sam Kim, an engineer at Hewlett-Packard Co., commended the six high schoolers for their long-standing commitment to the MESA program. All have participated in MESA since their middle school years, he said. In addition, all have excellent academic records, are active in extracurricular activities and have helped run their own local MESA school chapters and events.

Keynote speaker was Carl B. Talton, Portland metro area manager of Pacific Power & Light Co. and chair of the Portland Development Commission. Talton has two children in the MESA program. He told students to focus on five things while in school: creativity, problem solving, teamwork, self discipline and participation.

Other MESA students in attendance shared their after-school projects with MESA members and their families. Attending were students from Beaumont, Binnsmead, Fernwood, Environmental, Hosford, Sellwood, Tubman, Ockley Green and Whitaker middle schools; students from Northeast Community School; and students from Benson, Grand, Jefferson and Marshall high schools.

For more information about Portland-MESA, contact the MESA office at 725-4665.