

E d u c a t i o n

\$5,000 for High School Students

Awards totaling \$5,000 are available to high school-age Oregon students through the Independence Essay Competition. The 1997-98 Essay Competition focuses on the foundations of freedom. Entry deadline is March 4, 1998. To receive guidelines students should call the Essay Hotline (503) 224-1737, or refer to www.CascadePolicy.org/essay/essay98.htm.

The first one hundred entrants will receive a complimentary copy of Frederic Bastiat's *The Law*. The fourth annual Essay Competition is sponsored by the Constructive Management Foundation (Portland) and the James M. Bonavia Family Charitable Trust (Bend).

"Oregon students have a great opportunity to earn an award because they only compete against their in-state peers," notes Kurt T. Weber, program director at Cascade Policy Institute in Portland, which organizes the Essay Competition.

"Further, all high-school age students are eligible to participate, not just college-bound seniors. Last year's winners included a sophomore and two juniors."

Supreme Court Justice Stewart Potter once wrote, "In fact, a fundamental interdependence exists between the personal right to liberty and the personal right in property. Neither could have meaning without the other." Students are asked to expand upon Justice Stewart's quote and explore the concept that the foundation of a free society is personal and economic freedom, and when government regulates one it infringes upon the other.

This year the guidelines provide students with possible topics and suggested readings and web sites. According to Weber, these features should increase student inquiries and participation over the previous Essay Competition, which set new records in both categories.

Four Educators Receive Good News - \$25,000

Four Oregon high school educators today learned from State Schools Supt. Norma Paulus they have been selected to receive 1997 Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards, and the accompanying financial award of \$25,000. They are: Ray Hasart, technology teacher, Redmond High School; Bonnie Hill, language arts

teacher, Alsea High School; Ford Morishita, science teacher, Clackamas High School, and Arnie Roblan, principal, Marshfield High School, Coos Bay.

They will receive an expense-paid trip to Los Angeles next June for the annual Milken Family Foundation National Education Conference.

Campaign for Higher Education

Students at Oregon's colleges and universities recently kicked-off a state-wide campaign urging their legislators in Washington D.C. to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. Representatives from each school are working with the Oregon Student Association, who created the postcards to be distributed and signed.

The Higher Education Act lays the groundwork for distribution of monies allocated for student aid programs. It encompasses the Pell Grant, the State Student Incentive Grant program (SSIG), Perkins Loans, work study programs, Javits and Harris Fellowships for graduate students, and defines aid requirements. The Higher Education Act comes up for

re-authorization every five years.

"In the last six tuition has gone up over 80 percent in this state. This has made it hard for non-traditional students to go to school with the many obligations they have at home. Twenty years ago the ratio of federal aid was 80 percent grants and 20 percent loans; today it's a complete 180," said Marianne Cassera, OSA representative for Portland State.

The main focus of the post card campaign is to make secondary education accessible for all students. ASPSU set a goal of getting 1000 signed postcards to legislatures Smith, Wyden, Gorton, and Blummenauer. They are working toward this goal by tabling on Tues-

days and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and going into classes to educate and collect cards.

Besides making education more accessible, OSA and students want the government to: fully fund the expanded Pell Grant program; keep the SSIG; redefine the aid requirements so working, independent students can maintain eligibility; maintain federal work study program; fund low interest Perkins Loans; and Support GAANN, Javits, and Harris Fellowships.

"To lessen the hardship on students, our government has to make it a priority to fund the state and federal programs. The government needs to take an active role in education.

Steps To College Start Early

Getting ready for college — it's all about junior year SAT's and senior year admissions essay's, right? Wrong. Those are important landmarks on the path to college, but getting on course starts much earlier according to a new booklet from the U.S. Department of Education. If you are the parent of a middle-school or junior-high student, the time to help your child take some big steps toward a college education is now.

A college education is a big investment, in both time and money. But it's an investment that pays off — in expanded job opportunities, higher earnings, greater job security, lower unemployment, and personal satisfaction in the knowledge and skills acquired. The case for college is compelling. And that doesn't mean only a four-year college or university program. Your son or daughter can also benefit from a two-year community or technical college program focusing on specific career skills.

Sixth grade isn't too soon for a family to begin discussing college seriously. Your expectations play a big part in your child's

future. You can start talking to your child about possible career interests, how to pay for college, and the most important part of getting ready for college — choosing the right courses in middle and high school.

Studies show that students who take algebra and geometry by the end of the eighth and ninth grades are much more likely to go to college than those who do not. These and other challenging courses such as a foreign language, computer science, art, and music should be part of your child's middle or junior high schedule if college is a goal.

Students who want to go to college should also take the basic academic classes — English, science, and history or geography — every year of middle and high school.

Choosing the right classes and working hard in them is critical for college-bound students. That's why parents need to play an active role in helping their children plan their school schedules. Help is available from guidance counselors, teachers, and mentioning programs.

Students who plan ahead in

middle school may find room in their schedules for advanced placement or tech prep courses if these are offered at the high school. Both of these options may save time and money in college. Advanced placement (AP) classes are college-level classes that students can take in high school. If students score high enough on AP exams they can get college credit. Similarly, by taking career-focused tech prep classes a student headed for a two-year college can earn college credits when the institution has an agreement with the high school.

Recently articles and television programs have focused on the high and increasing cost of tuition at some colleges. Is college becoming financially unattainable for a family of average means? The U.S. Department of Education is reassuring on this point: "Most people believe that college is much more expensive than it really is. Although some colleges are expensive, many colleges are within reach. Even if a student wants to go to a more expensive school, financial aid can help."



Children share knowledge of success - Americans from a variety of fields, like Deputy U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder (above), participate in Teach For America Week, an event that called upon successful Americans to share their knowledge and experience with public school students.

UO Sends Students Welcome Holiday Greeting:

'Don't pay your tuition till next year'

The University of Oregon is advising students not to pay their winter tuition bills this year. Instead, pay after Jan. 1, 1998, advises an official notice included in Winter Term tuition bills going out this week.

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, just adopted by Congress, provides the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit of up to \$1,500 to help offset tuition costs for students in their first two years of college. The new law takes effect Jan. 1, 1998, explains Ed Vignoul, UO financial aid director.

"Students and their parents who are eligible to claim the tax credit on their 1998 tax returns can't claim a

credit for any payments dated, sent or delivered in 1997," Vignoul adds, "so, until the Department of the Treasury defines exactly what is meant by 'first two years of college,' the university is strongly recommending that all undergraduates delay paying winter 1998 tuition and fees until the new year."

The notices will be included in the tuition bill statements of Nov. 15 and Dec. 15.

Students will have until Jan. 10 to pay Winter Term tuition. Payments made after that date will be charged the usual late-fee penalty.

The UO also is delaying the dis-

bursement of financial aid for Winter Term to ensure that UO students receive the maximum benefit from this credit. No winter financial aid will be applied to any student's account until Jan. 1, 1998. The first cash back checks will be available Monday, Jan. 5. Law students, who register on a different schedule, can pick up their cash back checks Jan. 8.

Not everyone will be eligible for the Hope Scholarship Tax Credit. Individuals who do not pay taxes, who are above certain income levels, or whose tuition is being paid by certain types of grants and scholarships may not be eligible.

The U.S. Treasury Department has yet to release regulations regarding these programs, so there are still many unknowns. A handout providing additional information about these credits may be found on campus in the Business and Financial Aid offices at Oregon Hall.

The IRS has published Notice 97-60 on the World Wide Web to provide more detailed information on not only the Hope Scholarship Credit, but also on the Lifetime Learning Credit, Education IRAs and the Student Loan Interest Deduction. The notice may be found at: http://www.ed.gov/offices/ope/ppi/tra_qa.html.

Today you know it was all worth it.



*It doesn't seem that long ago...
tears on the first day of school,
fear of not knowing anyone,
laughing with new friends,
bewildered by algebra,
practicing to make the team,
holding the future in his hands on graduation day.*

A good education prepares Oregon's children for tomorrow's challenges. The Oregon Lottery is proud to provide \$1 out of every \$10 that currently funds Oregon's public schools, helping make the future bright for our children.



It does good.