

Contract Awarded for Tobacco Awareness Campaign

The Oregon Health Division announced that a contract for the Statewide Awareness and Education Campaign, an important component of the Tobacco Prevention and Education Program, has been awarded to the Oregon Tobacco Prevention Alliance (OTPA).

"I am pleased that we are able to present this highly visible educational program to help inform Oregonians of the dangers to tobacco," said Gary Weeks, director, Department of Human Resources.

"Studies from other states show that media and public relations are an important part of a comprehensive tobacco prevention program.

This campaign, combined with the other tobacco prevention activities taking place throughout the state, will help reduce tobacco consumption and improve the health and productivity of Oregonians."

The OTPA is led by Portland-based Pac/West Communications and includes Asher/Gould Advertising and Rogers & Associates Public Relations (Los Angeles) and Houston Herstek Favat Advertising (Boston), nationally recognized leaders in tobacco awareness education efforts.

"This is the first major tobacco awareness campaign to happen in Oregon, and we have taken great care in our selection of the firm that will do this work," said Elinor Hall, Health Division administrator. "We are confident that OTPA can deliver an effective program for us."

HUD Initiative Supports Oregon's Successful Welfare-to-Work Efforts

The latest U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Neighborhood Networks center in Oregon opened the newly-named Margaret Carter Apartments on Thursday, January 29 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. the ceremony was held in the Neighborhood Networks center at 626 NE Brazee St., Apt. #47, in northeast Portland.

Launched in September 1995 by HUD, Neighborhood Networks is a community-based initiative that provides residents of HUD-insured and assisted housing with on-site access to computer technology, resources and job training skills as a vehicle to improved self-sufficiency.

More than 330 Neighborhood Networks centers nationwide offer housing residents a variety of resources such as computer training, Internet access, job readiness support, microenterprise development, GED certification, health care and social services, adult education classes and youth services.

Representative Margaret Carter, after whom the Neighborhood Networks center is named, spoke at the grand opening along with representatives from the local Portland HUD office and Housing Our Families, the nonprofit owner of the housing development.

The Neighborhood Networks center at Margaret Carter Apartments will provide nine computers for about 75 families. The development is owned by Housing Our Families (HOF), a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering low-income families, with special support for single parents.

Ten Neighborhood Networks Centers Now Open in Oregon

On January 27, a Neighborhood Networks center also opened at 3983 N. Mississippi Avenue in Portland. This new center serves more than 200 residents of several nearby housing complexes, including the Betty Campbell, Albina Plaza and C.A. White developments. Five other Neighborhood Networks centers are open in Portland: Avenue Plaza apartments, Estates Plaza Apartments, Emerson Plaza Apartments, Alberta Street Apartments and Kirkland Union Manor III.

Neighborhood Networks centers are also in operation at Glen Ridge Apartments and Glen Ridge Terrace in Medford and Aloha Park Apartments in Aloha. With the addition of the centers opened this week, ten Neighborhood Networks centers are

now in operation in Oregon. Plans are underway for at least a dozen more Neighborhood Networks centers in the state.

"The Neighborhood Networks centers that are developing throughout Oregon are giving HUD-insured and assisted housing residents an opportunity to learn computer skills that they need to compete for jobs in this technological age," said Portland HUD director Tom Cusack. "These and other HUD welfare-to-work initiatives complement the highly successful efforts of the state."

Welfare caseloads in Oregon have dropped more than 54 percent since January 1993, the fourth highest reduction in the nation behind only Wyoming, Idaho and Wisconsin, according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services statistics.

Because Neighborhood Networks receives only minimal federal funding and relies primarily on local support, centers develop strong partnership with local businesses, nonprofits, educational institutions, faith-based organizations, foundations, hospitals, and federal, county and state governments.

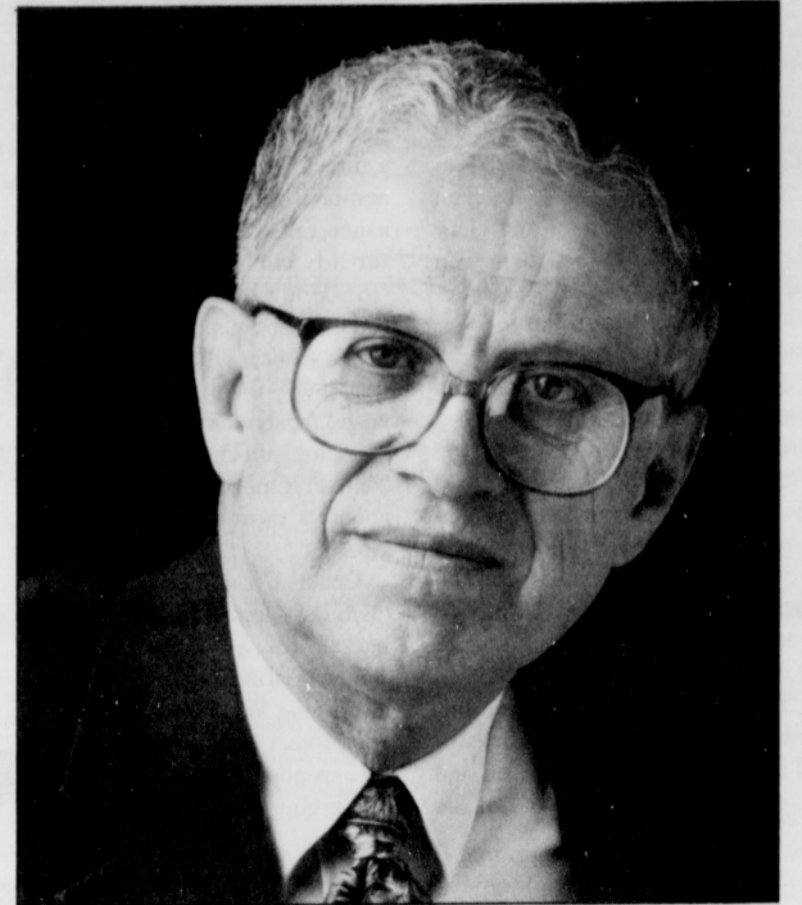
Balmer To Speak At Political Science Inaugural Lecture

Donald G. Balmer, who has served on the faculty of Lewis & Clark College for nearly half a century, will present the U.G. Dubach Professor of Political Science Inaugural Lecture, "Notes from a Journal," Sunday, Feb. 22, 4 p.m., in Agnes Flanagan Chapel, Lewis & Clark College, 0615 S.W. Palatine Hill Road. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Balmer, who came to Lewis & Clark College in 1951, is widely recognized and respected for his teaching, his public service and his persistent interest and astute analysis of the political and electoral process.

"Professor Balmer is a pillar of the institution and more," said Curtis Johnson, dean of social sciences and professor of political science. "He has helped to elevate the College to its present stature as a liberal arts college of top rank nationally. His guidance, wisdom, time, and dedication have been invaluable."

The U.G. Dubach Professorship in Political Science is named for Ulysses Grant Dubach, whom The Oregonian named in 1951 as one of 100 men who had made the greatest contribution to the development of Oregon in its first



Donald G. Balmer U.G. Dubach Professor of Political Science

100 years. Dubach was professor and chair of Lewis & Clark's political science department from 1947 to 1958.

He joined Lewis & Clark retiring as dean of men and chair of the political science department at Oregon State University.

Employment Department increases fraud convictions in 1997

The Oregon Employment Department cracked down on unemployment insurance fraud in 1997, increasing convictions by 46 percent over 1996. The department received convictions on 82 individuals who illegally collected money from the state's unemployment coffers, resulting in \$363,576 in restitution to be paid to the unemployment insurance trust fund. In addition to restitution, 20 individuals were sentenced to jail time for up to 105 days. Most of those convicted were sentenced to probation, and several also received fines, community service, and work-

crew assignments.

The unemployment insurance trust fund consists of taxes paid by Oregon employers for the purpose of paying unemployment benefits to workers who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. Last year, the Employment Department paid more than \$380 million in unemployment insurance benefits to more than 170,000 people.

In a regional breakdown, the Employment Department received convictions in 17 of the state's 36 counties in Clark County, Washington. The most conviction were in Multnomah County (26), followed by nine

each in Land and Marion counties, seven in Washington County, and five each in Linn, Josephine, and Clackamas counties. Clackamas and Jackson counties took a hard line on sentencing individuals convicted of unemployment fraud; of the nine convictions in those counties, seven individuals received jail time.

In 1996, the department received convictions against 56 individuals, returning nearly \$250,000 to the trust fund. Unemployment insurance fraud is a Class C felony, punishable by a maximum fine of \$100,000 and five years in prison.

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