

E d u c a t i o n

Wells Fargo Commits Another \$300,000 to Help Oregon School Districts in 1998

Wells Fargo and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) are teaming up again in 1998 to help school districts throughout the state improve the quality of their instruction and, ultimately, the math and science skills of Oregon's students.

The Wells Fargo Foundation has again committed \$300,000 to a pool of funds. Oregon school districts that need financial support to implement math and science programs this year will be encouraged to apply for a grant from the funds pool. The foundation and the ODE will distribute information about the grants to school districts and will jointly review each application.

"I am excited about the prospect of working with Wells Fargo for another year," said Norma Paulus, state superintendent of public instruction. "This generous support will again help Oregon schools address a critical need."

The amount that ultimately will be given will depend on the number and quality of the applications received. Last year, in what was the largest financial commitment Wells Fargo ever made to Kindergarten through Grade 12 education, the foundation also reserved \$300,000 for a similar pool. Seventeen school districts

throughout Oregon took advantage of the funds, receiving grants that totaled \$278,279 to improve their students' math skills.

The funds this year will be available to school districts throughout the state where Wells Fargo has

offices to support the ODE's implementation of the new math and science

standards for children in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Wells Fargo is the only corporate sponsor of this program, designed to raise the level of both instruction and children's knowledge of the subject.

"Our hope is to provide partial funding for every request that meets the criteria and we're urging school districts to submit their applications before the Sept. 30 deadline," said Wells Fargo executive vice president George

Passadore, who oversees the bank's branches in Oregon.

Through its Charitable Contributions Program, Wells Fargo seeks to invest in the communities in which it does business. A major focus of the bank's

grant-making is pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education.

"We believe

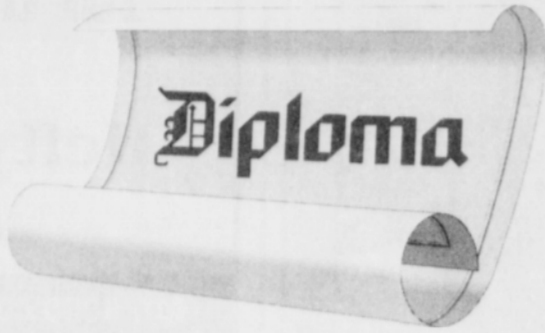
that the future of our community rests in the hands of our youth," said Passadore, who also volunteers as a board member of the Portland Public Schools Foundation. "It is up to all of us to make sure our children have the educational opportunities they need in order to grow into our community leaders of tomorrow."

More information about the grants program can be obtained by calling Joyce Benjamin at the Oregon De-

partment of Education at 503/378-3573, ext. 532.

Wells Fargo committed in 1996 to donating a total of \$300 million during a 10-year period to deserving community organizations in the 10 states in which it does business. As of Dec. 31, 1997, the company had donated more than \$40 million.

Wells Fargo & Co. is the nation's 10th largest banking company based on assets at Dec. 31, 1997. Its Northwest Division includes branches throughout Oregon.



New Program Aimed at Black Youths

By PAUL SHEPARD

With constant stories of low test scores and high dropout rates, national statistics on black educational achievement paint a bleak picture for many.

But a new program sponsored by the National Urban League and celebrated in an inner-city Washington church Saturday seeks to make good grades and volunteerism the norm among black youngsters.

"We need to create peer groups for our young people where achievement matters and achievement is cool," said Hugh Price, Urban League president as he inducted 25 Washington-area youth into the inaugural class of the Thurgood Marshall Achievers Society.

More than 2,000 youths, ranging in age from 5 to 17, were admitted to the society in 32 cities nationwide Saturday.

In Washington, retired Gen. Colin Powell, former chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff, implored

the class of 25 youths to press for excellence and not to allow negative peer pressure deter them.

"There is nothing in this society you can't have," Powell said in the packed Metropolitan Baptist Church. "There is no job you can't have or profession you can't excel in. But you are going to have to work for it."

The achievers society is part of the Campaign for African-American Achievement, a coalition of black community organizations that has come together to raise the academic performance of black youths.

"We have seen so much progress in the 50 years since I was coming up," Powell said. "But it will all be irrelevant if we can't bring up this new generation of youngsters to believe in themselves."

Powell said the effort dovetails with his chairmanship of America's Promise, the volunteer organization he chairs to benefit the nation's 15 million at-risk youth. The group, born

out of the President's Summit for America's Future last year in Philadelphia, is celebrating its first anniversary.

"We wanted to make sure this wasn't just a media event," Powell said. "We wanted to tap into the nation's consciousness, and the first year has been pretty good."

Some have criticized last year's volunteerism summit as little more than a media event with little lasting effect. But Powell said the fruits of the Philadelphia gathering have benefited thousands of Americans through expanded mentoring, youth employment and church programs.

For example, he said, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce expanded its program for youth employment to cover more than 3 million young people.

"To naysayers, I say stop naysaying," Powell said. "We haven't turned the whole country around yet, but we are on the way to something big."

Providence and Laurelhurst School partnership leads to dirty assignment

The gardens of Providence Portland medical Center become the classroom as 90 students from Laurelhurst Elementary School transfer book knowledge to hands on experience. The assignment: Learn the Latin names of common, outdoor plants, design a garden and

hen begin planting 1,000 flowers.

It's partnership between Providence Portland Medical Center and Laurelhurst Elementary School or what is referred to as PALS (Providence and Laurelhurst School). The partnership formed last year and has created a number of opportunities to

provide hands on learning for the students and many opportunities for the hospital as well.

Providence Health System partners with a number of schools in its service area. The PALS program is expanding to include Fernwood Middle School in 1998.

Colorado Kids Save Pennies, Free Sudan Slaves

Fifth-graders at a Denver school were so moved by a news story on modern-day slavery in Sudan that they raised \$200 to buy freedom for two Sudanese slaves.

Ashley Holmes said, "Even the boys were crying" when the class saw the story about a freed 13-year-old Dinka girl seeing her mother for the first time in seven years.

The Sudanese girl, Akuac Malong, was kidnapped at age 6 and enslaved by an Arab living in the northern reaches of the girl's homeland. The images created by the story inspired the class to do something.

With guidance from teacher Barbara Vogel, the Highline Community School students stuffed coins and dollars in a jar until they had \$200, enough to buy freedom for two slaves.

They plan to send the money to Christian Solidarity International, a Swiss-based humanitarian group that

recently bought freedom for Akuac and 131 other Sudanese slaves.

The class has also sent letters to Sen. Wayne Allard, R-Colo., and

other elected officials to express their dismay over the existence of slavery, and urge them to help put a stop to it.

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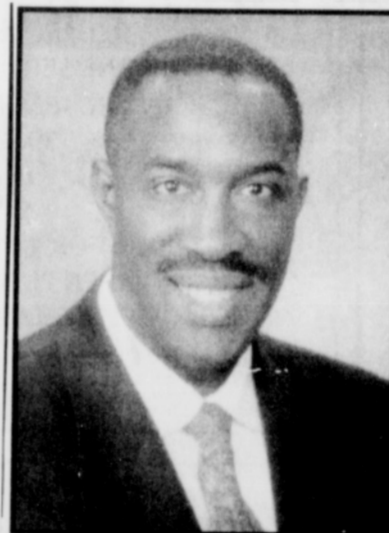
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Elect Paul
McCoy

Multnomah County
Commissioner • District 2

Proven Experience ▲ Trusted Leadership

Paul McCoy has lived in District 2 all his life — raising a family, running a business, and serving his community. His work in the Oregon State Legislature and Portland City Hall gives him the valuable experience needed to better serve Multnomah County. Paul McCoy has taken a leadership role in helping many organizations that support North and Northeast Portland neighborhoods.

Paul McCoy will:

- Encourage the creation of new jobs and local businesses.
- Provide teens with alternatives to street life, gangs and drugs.
- Work to increase affordable housing.
- Ensure the County delivers quality medical care and combats domestic abuse and child neglect.
- Work to bring hope and shelter to homeless adults and teens.
- Listen to people's ideas and concerns.

Paul McCoy is endorsed by: State Treasurer Jim Hill, State Rep. Mike Fahey, State Rep. Dan Gardner, State Sen. Thomas Wilde, State Sen. Cliff Trow, State Sen. Joan Dukes, Metro Com. Ed Washington, Skanner Publisher Bernie Foster, Portland Observer Editor Charles Washington, Lucious Hicks, Raleigh Lewis, Rev. Rozell Gilmore, Henry Scott, Mel Harris, Mike Rumpakis, Bart Jankans, Rev. Victor Brown, Leon Smith, Greg Smith, Tom Booth, Baruti Artharee, Tom Moyer, Gail Shibley, Michael Fitz, Harry Lonsdale, Kernan Bagley, Tom Stubblefield, Carpenters Union, Local 247; Pile Drivers & Shipwrights, Local 2416; and Eastside Democrats.

Vote Paul McCoy
on May 19th

Authorized and paid for by Friends of Paul McCoy