

Health & SCIENCE

Money Available to develop safety and health training programs

The deadline is approaching for trade and labor associations, employer consortiums, and other non-profit groups to apply for grants of up to \$40,000 to develop safety and health training programs and materials.

The Safety, Health Education and Training Grant Program, was created by legislation co-sponsored by the AFL-CIO and Associated Oregon Industries. The program's goal is to encourage the development of occupational safety and health training and materials different from those already in existence. According to Phyllis Straight-Millan, manager of the Education Section of Oregon OSHA, "If you can identify an occupational safety and health concern for which there are no currently existing training programs, you can apply for a grant to produce one."

A few examples of programs that have been developed include: pictograms for training mentally challenged individuals on hazards in the workplace; a dairy farmer's checklist and video; a home builder's manual and videos in Russian, Spanish, and English; and a CD ROM interactive

training program on preventing attacks by vicious dogs.

Since its inception in 1990, the program has awarded 47 grants totaling \$1.3 million.

"The finished product is of course the sponsor's product to use," said Straight-Millan. "But it also goes in the OR-OSHA resource library where it can be checked out and used by anyone in the state of Oregon."

Training and education grants are awarded twice a year. To meet the deadline for the October grant awards, you must submit a completed application to the Department of Consumer and Business Services Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division (OR-OSHA) no later than September 10. Approximately \$300,000 remains in the grant fund for this biennium.

More information about this program is available through Thomas Schwabe, OR-OSHA training specialist, at 1-503-947-7436. To receive a grant application packet, call Virginia Yonkers at 1-503-947-7437 or (toll free in Oregon) 1-800-922-2689. Information is also available on our web site ed.web@state.or.us.

Kaiser Permanente Selects Three For Minority Internship Program

Three Portland college students from minority backgrounds are spending their summer participating in health research as part of a three-month internship program sponsored by Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research (CHR) in north Portland. This is the fourth summer the Center has provided minority college students the opportunity to work and learn in research setting.

"The goal of the program is to attract minority students to careers in health research, a field which has few researchers from minority backgrounds," says Mary Durham, PhD, director of the Center.

The three are Ifeoma Egbo, Alena Marshall, and Elizabeth Rodrigues. Born in Nigeria, Egbo is a junior at Portland State University where she is majoring in a pre-physical therapy program. She studied banking and finance as well as educational management and economics in Nigeria. Egbo says she came to the United States because she "always wanted to be involved in health care" and because there is no degree program in physical therapy in Nigeria.

Marshall, who is a Portland native, graduated from Wilson high School and is finishing her freshman year at Portland Community College. To help pay for college and "to get my exercise," she also works in the evenings at United

Parcel service loading trailers. After completing her basic courses at PCC, she plans to transfer to Arizona State University to major in pharmacy.

Rodrigues, who is also a Portland native, graduated from St. Mary's Academy and is a sophomore at the University of Oregon where she is majoring in biology. She has spent past summers working as an intern in biomedical research. She says she "has always loved science and biology" and would like to become a research scientist because she wants "to have an impact on people's lives and health."

The three students are working 40 hours per week. Each is assigned to a mentor to learn about the research process and enhance their skills. If their progress is satisfactory this year, they will be invited to return each summer until graduation.

"This program was designed to increase the entry of minorities into health research occupations. It is exciting to provide an opportunity like this to students of color," says Cheryl Johnson, the Center's coordinator for the student intern program.

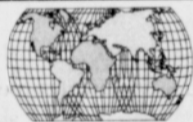
Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research, founded in 1964, is a not-for-profit research institute that conducts health research in the public domain. Kaiser Permanente and Group Health formed an affiliation in 1997. Together, the organizations provide health care to more than one million people in



Alena Marshall, a freshman at Portland Community College, is working at Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research this summer as a minority student intern.

Oregon and Washington. The affiliation also created the largest health services research enterprise in the United States, bringing together Kaiser Permanente's Center for Health Research in Portland

and Group health cooperative's Center for Health Studies in Seattle. Their combined annual budgets approach \$25 million and support more than different research projects.



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Free Vision Screenings Offered In Time For Back-To-School

The Pacific University College of Optometry Vision Centers are again providing a program of free back-to-school vision screenings for all ages including infants, pre-schoolers, school age children and adults.

According to eye doctors, vision screenings are especially beneficial in assuring proper development of learning skills for infants and children if they are received prior to or early in the school year. Screenings take about 30 minutes and provide important information about clarity of vision, eye health, and eye coordination—factors that are essential for good vision and healthy eyes. Screenings are especially beneficial for

younger children whose learning skills—such as reading and writing—and self-esteem in the classroom depend on good vision and healthy eyes. Screenings are also available for our schools, businesses and community organizations through Pacific's off-site screening program.

In addition to free screenings which are available throughout the year, Pacific's Vision Centers are providing \$25 fee reductions on vision examinations and 25% savings on most eye wear. Free reductions are valid from now through October.

Pacific University's Vision Centers offer weekday, evening and weekend hours, with locations throughout



Portland including downtown, southeast and northeast Portland; Forest Grove, Cornelius and McMinnville. For more information and to schedule a screening at the Pacific University Vision Center near you, please call 357-5800.

FREE SCREENINGS FOR VISION AND SCHOOL

Children depend on a healthy visual system and good eye health. As a community service, the Pacific University College of Optometry Northeast Eye Center is again offering free vision screenings for infants, pre-schoolers, school-age children, and adults — just in time for the school year.

Screenings provide information that is important in evaluating visual clarity, eye health, and eye coordination. Eye doctors stress the importance of regular vision care for children prior to or early in the school year.

Screenings take about 30 minutes and are offered during weekends, evenings and regular business hours.

As a special service, from now through October community members may receive a \$25 fee reduction on vision examinations and 25 percent off most eyewear in our Optical Shop.

TO SCHEDULE FREE SCREENINGS AND FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL

248-3821

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