

# E d u c a t i o n

## Paulus Releases Annual Oregon Report Card

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Norma Paulus, state superintendent of public instruction, today released the Oregon Report Card, an annual report on trends in Oregon schools. The report covering the 1997-98

school year captures demographic, financial and academic achievement trends, describes progress toward implementing the Oregon Educational Act for the 21st Century and summarizes other details of Oregon's public school system.

Oregon schools are expecting more of students in reading, writing, mathematics and other basic subjects," said Paulus. "We are raising our academic standards. This report

highlights our achievement thus far."

Here is a sample of some of the information contained in the report:

\* Only one country scored significantly higher than Oregon on international science tests. Eight countries scored significantly higher than Oregon on international math tests.

\* Oregon focused on mathematics curriculum and instruction - through three math summits with mathematics teachers from around the state

and a donation of \$600,000 from Wells Fargo for grants to school districts to improve mathematics education.

\* Teachers face increasingly crowded classrooms as Oregon's population of school-age children continues to grow. The number of Oregon students has risen by 11.7 percent since 1990 to 541,346 students, while the number of teachers has risen by only 2.9 percent to 26,935

in the same period of time. Student enrollment is expected to climb through the rest of the decade.

\* Minority students represented 16.3 percent of total enrollment in 1997-98, up from 11.2 percent in 1990. Of the total number of new students who entered Oregon public schools for the first time since 1990, 60 percent were from minority populations. Two out of three new

minority students are Hispanic.

\* Districts spent an average of \$5,622 per student in 1997-98, up slightly from \$5,408 per student in 1996-97 as the state continued to move toward equalized funding across districts.

The report is posted on the Oregon Department of Education web site at [www.ode.state.or.us/edact/](http://www.ode.state.or.us/edact/).

## Mayor Vera Katz Announces Grant To Help Foster Job Opportunities

Outer SE Portland Manufacturing Learning center will train students, unemployed, and under-employed adults

Mayor Vera Katz tomorrow will present an ordinance to City Council accepting a \$65,000 planning grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA), matched by \$22,000 from the Office of the Mayor, to help establish the Outer Southeast Portland Manufacturing Learning Center.

The grant furthers efforts to expand on the Mayor's Quality Jobs Initiative by creating a center that will encourage job creation leading to economic self-sufficiency by linking the jobs to the unemployed in one of the city's most economically distressed areas.

The Outer SE Portland Manufacturing Learning Center, to be built in partnership with Marshall High School, Portland Community College, and the local community and employers, is envisioned to:

\* train high school and unemployed and under employed adults for careers in manufacturing with coursework taught to industry employer standards;

\* provide skills upgrade training for outer southeast Portland manufacturers; and

\* broker technical assistance to local manufacturers to increase business and worker retention.

The Learning Center will be built on the foundation of Marshall High School's four-year technology program. This year, the school is starting three new manufacturing/technology courses in computer refurbishing (STRUT), computer programming, and NT networking. The Center would use Marshall's facility to implement program targeted to manufacturing and Outer Southeast, that would serve both youth and adults. The curriculum would be industry-driven with input from Southeast Portland manufacturers, meet Oregon's education reform standards, and include a long-term employer involvement strategy to keep course content relevant, competitive and continually improving.

To finish the vision of the Learning Center, the partnership is developing a business plan that will define how the center would function. It will be followed by an assessment of the training and technical needs of Outer SE manufacturers.

Council is set to consider the ordinance during their regular meeting on Wednesday, September 30th. The ordinance is not a "Time Certain," but is expected to be the first on the agenda.



Mayor Vera Katz

## Bachelor's Degrees Now Available

The whole purpose of this is to make it simpler or more seamless for students to reach their goals

### PCC Distance Learning

The convenience of higher education through Portland Community College has reached a new level this year with the help of several four-year institutions.

Via the Internet or modem, PCC students can now work toward a bachelor's degree by linking with Oregon State University, Marylhurst University, Eastern Oregon University and Governors State University in Illinois.

PCC students have previously been able to complete selected associate's degrees or take assorted classes from home, work or at PCC facilities via the Internet or modem. The new relationship with these universities allows students to complete more classes at their local college while fulfilling requirements for their bachelor's degrees in disciplines such as business, management, organizational communication and liberal studies.

"The whole purpose of this is to make it simpler or more seamless for students to reach their goals," said PCC Director of Distance Learning John Sneed, "whether it be a one-year certificate, an associate's degree or a

bachelor's degree."

Sneed added that all students seeking bachelor's degrees must meet admissions requirements for the institution granting the degrees and need to consult with advisors at both PCC and the institution with their degree of choice.

The following degrees are available through PCC's Distance Learning department, which administers the program:

- \* associate of general studies degree;
- \* associate of arts Oregon Transfer Degree;
- \* program award in management and supervisory development;
- \* associate of applied science degree in management and supervisory development;
- \* bachelor of science in liberal studies;
- \* bachelor of arts in liberal studies;
- \* bachelor of science in management;
- \* bachelor of arts in organizational communication;
- \* Board of Governors bachelor of arts degree;
- \* general business degree with a minor in communications.

For more information on Distance Learning programs at PCC, contact John Sneed at 977.4398, or visit the PCC Distance Learning web site at [www.distance.pcc.edu](http://www.distance.pcc.edu).

## Jefferson High School

Are our schools being taken over by violence?

It has been widely reported in the press that recently a student at Jefferson High School was found to have hidden a gun in bushes on school property.

Normally, under these circumstances federal and state law require the District to expel the student involved for a period of one year; however, in this case, because the federal special education laws may apply, the disciplinary and expulsion procedures of those laws may also apply. The length of any expulsion or exclusion from school under these laws is more limited, which may include placement in an alternative setting for up to 45 days. At the end of the 45-day period, the placement decision is then reexamined and a final placement decision may be made.

Because of the privacy requirements of state law in this type of case, the name of the student and family are confidential and will not be disclosed.

An AP wire released recently today that said the student was expelled for one year is incorrect and was based on faulty information provided by the School District to a KXL reporter.

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# WEEKLY VALUES!

**Whole Pork Loin**  
Cut from 14 to 17-lb. Loins.  
Whole only at this price.  
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**Safeway 18-ct. Large AA Eggs**

Limit 1.  
SAVE up to 92¢

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