

Stein, Francesconi Announce SUN School Sites

8 Schools Make Up First Round of Full Service Community Centers

Portland Commissioner Jim Francesconi and Multnomah County Chair Beverly Stein named the first round of schools selected to participate in the SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) initiative. Appearing before parents, students, school staff and community members at Whitaker Middle School,

Stein and Francesconi announced funding for five Sun School applications covering eight schools throughout Multnomah County. These eight Sun Schools represent the inaugural round of an initiative that hopes to see 40 such schools established by 2004.

"Sun Schools will be the seeds to

stronger and healthier communities," said Stein. "We're going to extend the hours of neighborhood schools and create places for students, senior, parents and neighbors to share experience, learn new skills and enjoy recreation together. There will be something to draw every one of us to a Sun School

Oregon University Costs Inch Up Despite Tuition Freeze

Undergraduates will pay more this fall, making the freeze look a little bit mushy around the edges

By ROMEL HERNANDEZ

When is a tuition freeze not really a freeze?

Despite extra money from the Legislature, Oregon's public universities are nudging up the cost of attending college. Resident undergraduates will see their college bills go up between 0.3 percent and 2.8 percent this fall.

Annual tuition and fees beginning in the fall will range from \$3,234 at Southern Oregon University to \$3,810 at the University of Oregon. The added costs of room, board and other expenses, however, could push the total up to \$12,000. In contrast, the most expensive private colleges, such as Reed College in Portland, can cost up to \$30,000 a year.

Still, the increase is the smallest of the decade in Oregon, which saw tuition increases in the early 1990s. Tuition — but not fees — will stay frozen through the 2000-2001 school year.

The State Board of Higher Education is expected to approve the increases at its meeting today in Coos Bay.

The increase in fees frustrated some leaders who lobbied legisla-

tors to hold down college costs.

"We work so hard for a tuition freeze and then we thump the students over the head," said Ed Dennis, director of the Oregon Student Association, which represents college students. "These nickels and dimes really add up."

And compounding the concerns over cost is a national trend among college students to take longer than four years to graduate. In Oregon, fewer than half of all full-time undergraduates earn a four-year degree in four years.

Students at state schools pay extra fees for buildings, health care and technology, some of which vary among schools. Students also assess themselves an "incidental" fee — usually about \$400 — that pays for student organizations and sports.

Some schools charge extra for students to enroll in their honors programs. Oregon State and Portland State charge engineering majors about \$400 extra a year. The UO makes business students pay a \$300 surcharge.

And those added costs don't include the long list of fees students may pay for a variety of purposes: field trips, physical education courses, parking and other student services.

Room and board costs also rose. The UO, for example, raised its room and board price by 11.6 per-

cent to \$5,690 a year — largely because of a restructured meal plan that officials said costs more but gives students more flexibility.

David Koch, a UO law student who is a member of the higher education board, said that many students find the array of fees they are required to pay "demoralizing" and a drain on students' thin checkbooks.

"Every \$50 or \$100 does count," Koch said. "A lot of us live from financial-aid check to financial-aid check."

The situation is still better than just a few years ago. When Measure 5 passed in 1990, the Legislature slashed funding for public higher education. Oregon universities boosted prices more than 80 percent to make up for cuts.

The cost of public higher education generally has stabilized across the country after years of big increases. California is keeping increases under 1 percent next fall. Virginia is actually reducing prices. Most states are raising tuition at least a few percentage points.

Overall, Oregon's big universities are cheaper than California's, about the same as Washington's and pricier than Arizona's.

Oregon puts a priority on making college more affordable for Oregon undergraduates. But nonresident students, who already pay three times what residents do, will see their tu-

North Clackamas Educator Tapped for State Post

Ron Dexter, director of the nationally recognized Sabin Skills center at North Clackamas School District, will become Associate Superintendent for Professional Technical Education at the Oregon Department of Education. His appointment was announced today by State Schools Supt. Stan Bunn.

Dexter will replace Judy Patterson, a former North Salem High School principal who returned to an administrative post at Salem-Keizer School District. He will begin in July. Dexter will be responsible for the Certificate of Advanced Mastery, which will add

value to the last two years of a student's high school experience by focusing on the application of skills and knowledge.

"Ron has been tremendously successful in providing students with programs that allow them to apply what they learn in the classroom to possible careers," said Bunn. "We are delighted to have Ron available to do for students statewide what he's done for students in North Clackamas."

The Sabin Center provides 16 professional technical programs — from health occupations to graphics technology — to students in the

district's three high schools and in five other Clackamas County high schools. Distance learning courses in health occupations and law enforcements are delivered to students in 30 Oregon school districts.

Dexter began his education career as a science teacher at Madison High school in Portland. He was vice principal of Lincoln High School in Portland and principal of Camas High School in Washington. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in secondary education from Portland State University and a doctorate in supervision and curriculum from Oregon State University.

K-12 Education Budget Clears House

The Oregon House of Representatives on Wednesday evening passed HB 5018, the K-12 Education Budget. The measure, which allocates the single largest general fund appropriation in the entire state budget, passed the floor with a 33-24 vote.

As passed by the House, HB 5018 appropriates \$4.811 billion from the state's general fund revenues to education. The figure has steadily risen as debate has continued in Salem. In January the governor proposed \$4.548 billion, a then record-setting amount. Since that time the figure

has continually risen, with Senate President Brady Adams suggesting \$4.6 billion, and the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators reporting that a survey of their members showed \$4.76 billion was a "no-cuts" budget.

The voters have three times, with Ballot Measures 5, 49 and 50, af-

firmed their mandate that Oregon fund its public schools using income, not property taxes. This has shifted the funding responsibility away from local government to the state, causing almost half of Oregon's \$11 billion budget be directed to K-12 education while still balancing the needs of other critical state programs.

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Christie School Seeks Past Residents, Staff And Volunteers For Celebration

Oregon's Oldest Children's Agency Has it's 140th Anniversary

The Christie School, Oregon's oldest children's agency, is in search of individuals from its past to help celebrate its 140th birthday. Located at its present site in Marylhurst, Oregon since 1908, Christie School served as a home for many of Oregon's orphaned children for the first 107 years (1859-1966). In 1966, the agency reorganized as a psychiatric residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed children. With this reorganization, the emphasis changed to caring for children overcoming severe trauma typically caused by physical and sexual abuse, neglect and multiple foster placements.

"Christie School has a long history of caring for Oregon's children in need," said William M. Powers, Executive Director, "thousands of Oregonians have played a part in the history of Christie — as residents, staff, volunteers and other supporters. As we celebrate this land-

mark year, we hope to reconnect with as many of these people as possible. Their participation in our celebration will help bring our history to life and bring together many of the people that made Christie School the leader in children's services that it is today."

An on-campus celebration is scheduled for Sunday, October 17 from 1:00 - 5:00 PM. The celebration is sponsored in part by NW Natural, also celebrating their 140th anniversary this year. For more information, call Christie School, 675-2220.

Charter Schools May Open Soon

Supporters of charter schools in Oregon have reason to celebrate. Governor John Kitzhaber and the Republican legislative leadership have reached an agreement on the last big stumbling block regarding the schools. The problem had to do with using teachers who did not hold Oregon teaching licenses. The gov-

ernor agreed to allow them to teach...if they undergo background checks. The agreement also requires the 2001 legislature to look at the use of unlicensed teachers.

Some say the first charter schools could open as soon as this fall. Charter schools operate outside the normal public school system, but use public money.

Bill Will Help Redefine Oregon's Approach to Economic Development

A bill signed into law Wednesday by Governor John Kitzhaber will help redefine Oregon's approach to economic development.

Kitzhaber signed Senate Bill 1128 into law on July 14. The bill, a major rewrite of the state's economic development statutes, was the result of a yearlong effort by the Oregon Economic Development Commission and the 1997 legislatively appointed Interim Work Group on Economic and Community Development.

A primary objective of SB 1128 was to capture the "new directions" initiative envisioned by the commission in its 1995-97 biennial report. "New directions" focused on rural and economically distressed com-

munities that haven't shared in Oregon's business, livable communities and partnerships.

Under the "new directions" approach, the department now focuses its efforts and resources on assisting distressed communities that haven't shared in Oregon's economic boom and diversification and making sure the state's business climate helps Oregon business complete globally. It also helps communities cope with growth concerns and promotes sustainable and federal entities.

SB 1128 also renames the agency as the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department. The new name more accurately reflects the department's role in help-

ing communities build local capacity and infrastructure, which in turn improves livability and sets the stage for economic opportunities.

"The details of this bill reflect substantial agreement about what types of resources, assistance and public-private partnership it will take to bring communities and business to a higher level of prosperity and livability," Scott added.

The Oregon Economic and Community Development Department is a state agency that invests lottery, federal and other funds to help communities and businesses create economic opportunities and helps ensure a healthy business climate that improves the quality of life for all Oregonians.

Abortion Limit Discussed

A bill designed to severely limit locations where women in Oregon could receive abortions is being discussed in the state Senate. The bill would allow abortions to be performed only in surgical cen-


ters. Opponents say costs would increase from about 300 dollars to 25-hundred for each operation. Presently, only about one in a dozen abortions are performed at surgical centers. The bill was pro-

posed by long time abortion opponent Eileen Qutub of Beaverton. She says more regulation is needed on locations where the operations can be performed.

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