



Health / Education

Have a Happy Father's Day

Trailblazers take over sponsorship of "Excellence in Education"

CONTRIBUTED STORY FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The goal of the Portland Public School Foundation's annual "Excellence in Education" Awards is to recognize those principals, teachers and school staff—individually or as "teams"—in Portland Public Schools who go beyond the day-to-day demands of their jobs to create an exceptional educational environment for children in their classroom or school. We know that many educators are forging ahead with a commitment to "excellence" and higher achievement levels for students despite the budget cuts and lack of resources facing our schools. The Foundation would like

to celebrate the efforts of extraordinary educators and staff during this challenging time.

As the new sole sponsor of the Awards, the Blazers organization has made a significant and meaningful contribution to the advancement of excellence in public education, as well as rewarding those who have displayed leadership and innovation in Portland Public Schools.

Recipients of the "Excellence in Education" Awards will receive public recognition at an awards ceremony on June 16, 2000.

The entire ceremony will be broadcasted later on the public access television channel for Portland Public Schools.

In addition, each school represented by the Award recipients will receive one grant award of \$1,000. These funds will be designated for purchasing materials, library books or other supplies/materials which benefit the entire school community. This year the Foundation will present 15 awards, honoring 17 individuals (from classroom teachers to school secretaries to principals to adapted physical education teachers. In total, the Foundation has presented 70 awards, recognizing 98 individual some of the awards were presented for teams of teachers or staff. The foundation, this year had received more than 180 nominations for principals, teachers and school staff.

Veteran state Health Division manager named acting administrator

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Michael Skeels, a state Health Division manager since 1983, has been named the division's acting administrator by Oregon Department Human Services Director Gary Weeks. Skeels, 51, assumed the post from which prior administrator Elinor Hall resigned last fall. The job had been held by Jono Hildner, retired director of Clackamas County's health and human services department, since November. A permanent

administrator is expected to be named this summer.

"Michael Skeels brings an unusually rich background to any public-health role he fills," Weeks said, "and I'm delighted that he is willing to lead the division again during this interim period." Skeels was the division's administrator from 1990 to 1994. He joined the Health Division in 1983 as director of the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory, a part of the division, a job that he resumed after leaving the administrator's job. He also teaches at Oregon Health

Sciences University and Portland State University.

He holds a doctoral degree in microbiology from the University of Montana at Missoula, a master's in public health from the University of Washington, and bachelor and master's degrees in biology from Wichita State University in Kansas. He and his wife have two teen-age children. The Health Division has about 495 employees and a two-year budget of \$ 308 million, of which the largest share comes from federal sources.

Portland After-School Tennis past

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Portland After-School Tennis (PAST) is a volunteer, non-profit organization that works with select schools to introduce the life-long sport of tennis to inner-city kids while assisting them to be good learners and future productive citizens. For the past four years, PAST has promoted membership, discipline, self-esteem, responsibility, and the development of living fundamentals for children.

The organization is pleased to announce that the 2000 Pacific Coast Championship (PCC) will be held in Portland, from September 1-4. This event will mark the first time that the annual tournament will be in the northwest in its 79-year history. PAST has brought together a group of stellar organizations and civic leaders to ensure a successful tournament. Every partner in this venture is looking to make the "Year 2000 Pacific Coast Tennis Championships" the best ever.

PAST would like to see your organization participate in this historic

event and to attend our June fundraiser. Your organization is cordially invited to attend the Portland After School Tennis "Black Tie and Tennis Shoe" Fund-raiser on Saturday, June 24, 2000, from 6-10 pm, at the Irvington Tennis Club (2131 NE. Thompson). The program will have music and dancing, special presentations, and raffle drawings. The winner could win a one week trip to Mazatlan or the Oregon Coast. The event costs \$30 to attend. For more information, call Rufus Dean at 503/449-3192 or email him at concepts1unlimited1@yahoo.com.



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