



Health/Education

Report documents minority progress toward Oregon benchmarks

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A new report for the Oregon Progress Broad shows that Oregon's racial and ethnic minorities are making progress on key educational and social measures.

"Oregon's racial and ethnic minorities continue to improve and get closer to Oregon's benchmark goals in almost all areas," said report author, Chuck Sigmund of Sigmund Research Associates. The report based on data from the Oregon Population Survey as well as data collected from other state and federal sources, documents minority group's progress concerning Oregon's Benchmark targets. The state report examines recent trends in eight areas, including education, health, and community for each Oregon's minority communities: African-American, Asian-American, Native-American and Hispanic.

Not all the news is positive, however. Jeff Tryens, executive director of the Oregon Progress Board, observed that, compared to state averages, Hispanics and African-Americans actually lost ground between 1990 and 1998 in many instances. "For almost every instance we looked at, African-Americans and Hispanics improved less rapidly than the state average," said Tryens. If this trend continues, these Oregonians will fall farther and farther behind the rest of the populations."

Education

Eighth grade reading and math scores earned by minority students in Oregon showed mixed results between 1991 and 1998. While all groups improved, only Native-Americans improved more rapidly than the state average in both reading and math. Asian-Americans continued to out score all other racial and ethnic minorities in math. "While these results are encouraging," stated Chuck Sigmund, a Sigmund Research Associate, "with the exception of Asian-Americans, none of Oregon's minority groups currently meet the state benchmarks for meeting reading or math standards." In fact, math scores for Hispanic and African-Americans are less than half the state average. Over seven percent of all high school students dropped out during the 1997-98 school year, compared to 5.8 percent in 1991-92. The highest dropout rate is found among Hispanics who drop out at more than twice the state average. A record number of Oregon adults had a high school diploma and college education in 1998 and these numbers continue to grow for all groups except Native-Americans and African-Americans.

In addition, all of Oregon racial and ethnic groups have higher education levels than their counterparts nationally.

Health

The percentage of minority mothers

receiving early prenatal care grew across all minority groups from 1990 to 1998. African-American mothers experienced the most rapid increase, climbing from 61 percent in 1990 to 79 percent in 1998. The proportion of Hispanic mothers accessing early prenatal care moved up from 55 percent to 67 percent. The overall state average was 80 percent in 1998. Hispanic adults are the least likely to have health insurance. In 1998, 22 percent of Oregon's Hispanic adults were without health care coverage, double the state's average of 11 percent. Native-Americans were also considerably more likely to be uninsured, with 18 percent of this minority group lacking health care coverage.

Community

Not only are African-Americans over-represented in Oregon's criminal arrest rate, the proportion of arrests attributable to African-Americans has almost doubled (from six percent to eleven percent) since 1990. In 1998, Hispanic made up six percent of the state's population, but accounted for seven percent of all arrests.

African-Americans continue to be increase in numbers as homeowners in 1998, compared to 72 percent of White, the highest rate. Overall, the state has achieved its benchmark goal of 68 percent home ownership. Oregon's public offices continue to be dominated by Whites. While they only make up 88 percent of the state's

population, Whites comprise 98 percent of all local officials in the state. Only two percent of elected and appointed officials are Hispanic, and each of the other minority groups represents one percent or less of all officials are Hispanic, and each of the other minority groups represents one percent or less of all officials.

Oregon's population is becoming more diverse. Hispanics are the state's fastest growing minority group. Their population increased from four percent to six percent between 1990 and 1998. During that period, Oregon's racial and ethnic minorities increased from ten percent to twelve percent of the population.

The state's averages of 11 percent. Much of the data for this report were drawn from the Oregon Population Survey, a telephone survey of approximately 5,000 households conducted in even numbered years. The state agencies that fund the survey use the results to make public policy decisions. The Oregon Progress Board and the state Office of Economic Analysis joint manage the survey, which Clearwater Research, Inc. Conducted in 1998. In addition to the 1998 Oregon Population Survey, several state and federal data sources were used to write this report. In some cases data from different samples are compared. In each instance the different data sources are described in the endnotes.



If you're looking for a doctor, your search is over

Legacy Clinic Northeast welcomes two new primary care physicians, Lisa Alberts, M.D. (left), and Robina Wong, M.D. Both doctors, trained internists, are accepting new patients and join Sharadan Lisk, M.D., and Bernie Sperley, D.O., at the clinic. They welcome your call.

Legacy Clinic Northeast
2800 N. Vancouver Avenue, Suite 231,
Portland
Hours are 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Monday through Friday

For appointments, call (503) 413-4134
www.legacyhealth.org



Legacy Health System includes Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, Emanuel Children's Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital & Medical Center, Meridian Park Hospital, Mount Hood Medical Center, Visiting Nurse Association, Legacy Clinics and CareMark/Managed HealthCare Northwest PPO. ©2000

Multimedia certificate arms students with multi-talents

CONTRIBUTED STORY
FOR THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

PCC's Multimedia program, which recently received state certifications, will give students entry level skills and experience needed to work in a wide array of jobs in the world of multimedia such as Web designer, Web content creation specialist, multimedia programmer and many more!

The digital world has opportunities for those people equipped to take advantage of them, Portland Community College has a newly accredited program that aims at arming students with the skills needed to be multi-faceted entrepreneurs. PCC's Multimedia program is designed to provide students with the skills and experience needed to be a valuable employee in the professional world of multimedia. Some of the types of jobs that await a graduate of the program include multimedia associate producer, Web designer, Web content creation specialist, interface designer, multimedia programmer or authoring specialist, digital video specialist, interactive technical writer and multimedia project manager.

The new certificate program also gives people already the multimedia profession ongoing skill development to bolster their skills. The program was formally approved by the Oregon State Board of Education on Thursday, June 15. The classes for the certificate program begin this fall, starting Monday, Sept. 25 at the Cascade Campus, located at 705 N. Killingworth St.

Michael Cleghorn, a PCC Multimedia instructor, chairs the fast-growing program and teaches a lab in the program's introductory class Introduction to Multimedia. "For the past year or more it seems that most classes fill within a week or two of the initial registration start time," he said. "The good news for students is that we offer our beginning classes, the 100-level, nearly every term, and many of the advanced 200-level classes are offered several times a year."

The Multimedia program was created out of necessity and quickly became a partnership between the college and the industry. Its beginnings were a PCC faculty task force formed in 1996 after a multimedia conference in Portland. An advisory committee to the task force was then

formed, composed of representatives from a variety of Portland companies starved for graduates versed in the emerging technologies of the burgeoning multimedia market. By fall 1998 a complete multimedia program had been created. However, there is no such thing as a typical multimedia student.

"The only common link I can think of with our 'typical' multimedia student is their addiction and dedication to the work," Cleghorn said. "I have over 23 years of college classroom teaching experience, and my multimedia students are the first that I have ever seen that more often than not, shun breaks, lunches, and never seem ready to leave at the end of a class."

David Thorsrud, a part-time instructor in the program, directs interactive development for Cenquest Inc., a Portland company that helps colleges and universities take their graduate programs online. He said the multimedia industry is "portfolio based" when it comes to hiring students out of college. In response, he is instructing his students on how to develop and review their portfolio of work.

"They've got a great foundation because that lab is really nice," he said of PCC's Multimedia program. "They definitely have a head start on anyone else. There are some (students) that have a great ability and a passion above everybody else."

Briefs

PSU's Engineering Program Changes Name to Reflect Direction

On Thursday July 21, Portland State University's School of Engineering and Applied Science received final approval from the Oregon University System Board to officially change its name to the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

The new name helps define the University's leadership role in engineering and computer science education and research at PSU, in the state, and beyond. Dean Robert Dryden said, "The College has recently added a new Ph.D. Program in computer science, a series of masters' degrees and graduate certificates for the working engineer, and has set a goal of doubling enrollment to meet regional industry need." In addition, the College is in the process of adding several doctoral degrees and new faculty members whose areas of expertise meet the specific needs of regional industry and government.

The new name also highlights the role of PSU's computer science department, which has the only Computer Science Accreditation

Board (CSAB) accredited undergraduate program in Oregon. The department is the largest in the college and one of the fastest growing programs at PSU.

Senior Adults Needed Immediately Senior Corps is looking for fresh, talented adults, at least 55 years of age to help at-risk children or elder adults and adults with disabilities in Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas counties. You can receive up to \$200 a month tax-free while helping children learn to read, develop social skills and more, or provide companionship based services to frail adults or adults with disabilities. No experience needed, just a desire to help other. Call (503) 232-0007 extension 202 for details.

Free Lead Testing For Children On August 12

Childhood lead poisoning is a major and preventable environmental health problem and lead-based paint is now the primary source of lead exposure. Free lead testing for children will take place the second Saturday of each month, from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. at Common Bond, 4919 N.E. Ninth Avenue (Northeast Ninth and Alberta behind St. Andrew's Church). Blood lead testing of children should be performed at age 1 and 2 or at least before age 6 if no previous tasting has been done and any risk factors for lead poisoning are present.

Children who live in or regularly stay in home, apartment, or child care center constructed before 1978 are at a greater risk of developing lead poisoning, especially if there is remodeling or peeling paint. Other risk factors include family members with exposure to lead and low family income (including those on Medicaid, WIC, or Oregon Health Plan)

The effects of lead poisoning are reversible if detected early a blood test. If undetected, lead poisoning damages the brain, causing learning and behavioral problems in affected children.

The testing is co-sponsored by volunteer from the Oregon chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Coalition of Black Men, with help from Volunteers of America, Common Bond, CLEARCorps, the Urban League of Portland, and Old Wives' Tales Restaurant. Special thanks to Multnomah County Health Department for providing laboratory testing and supplies.

The Portland Observer proudly presents



For The Music.
For The Food.
For The Fun.

For The Family.
September 2

For thirty years The Portland Observer has been committed to bringing you information regarding people of diverse backgrounds. In this spirit we bring to the community this first DiversityFest. Free to the public, this event will be providing barbecue and entertainment for the entire family, as well as children's rides. We hope you can come and enjoy the fun.

September 2, noon - 7 pm, at Oaks Park
East end of the Ross Island Bridge

If you have any questions please call 503.288.0033