

EDUCATION

Achievement Team Seeks Members

Group to serve as state voice for underrepresented students

State School Superintendent Susan Castillo is creating an Advisory Team on Underrepresented and Minority Student Achievement. Anyone interested in joining the team is asked to submit a one-page letter of interest.

The Advisory Team was established to create and maintain a voice for minority and tradi-

tionally disadvantaged groups in the education system.

The team will work with the Superintendent on a range of issues and will play a key role in changing and improving public education in Oregon. The group will advise the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education and other policy makers on how to better serve underrepresented students and promote minority achievement.

It is also a goal of the group to ensure that the needs of these students are heard not only in-

side the department of education but also in the legislature, in the media and in Oregon communities across the state.

Over time, this advisory team should play an important role in shaping public debate about public education in Oregon.

To apply for the Advisory Team on Underrepresented and Minority Student Achievement, contact Ed Dennis, Chief of Staff for the Superintendent of Public Instruction, at ed.dennis@state.or.us or by calling 503-888-1134.

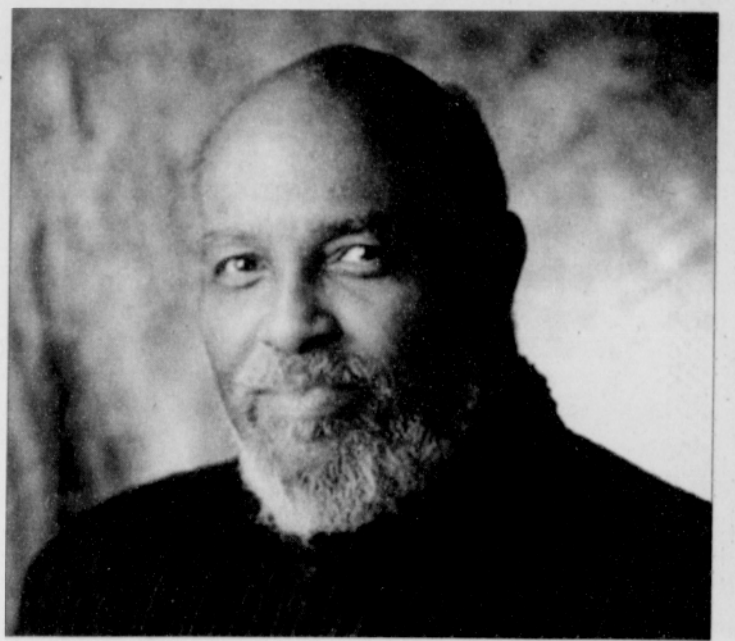
DEPREIST TO SPEAK AT PSU COMMENCEMENT

African American director of Oregon Symphony is a local legend

Internationally renowned music conductor and local icon, James DePreist, will address the Class of 2003 at Portland State University's spring commencement ceremony on Saturday, June 14 at the Rose Garden Arena.

"Jimmy has made tremendous contributions to the region and has deeply influenced the arts community in Portland and abroad," said PSU president Daniel O. Bernstine. "Jimmy is one of Portland's greatest citizens. I believe his remarks will inspire our graduates as they leave PSU for new opportunities."

Currently, DePreist is completing 23 years as Oregon Symphony music director by changing his



James DePreist

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—PSU president Daniel O. Bernstine

role with the orchestra to that of laureate music director. He will continue to conduct annually and will record with the orchestra through 2008. He has conducted with a number of symphony or-

chestras including the New York Philharmonic, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Quebec Symphony and the Boston Symphony. He is also a distinguished poet.

Advertise in The Portland Observer call 503.388.0033

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SNACK BAR AVAILABLE

Gerri Washington Seeks Reelection to Education Board

A long time community activist and current director on the Multnomah Education Service District, Gerri Washington has filed for reelection.

Washington has been a voice for parents and students in her district, inner north and northeast Portland.

"As a single African American mother of three, I know the struggles of working parents," says Washington.

In her four years on the MESD board, Washington has focused on keeping children in school and



Gerri Washington, Multnomah Education Service District director.

ensuring that all students succeed.

She has worked with fellow board members in developing their understanding of the need for the diversity necessary in meeting the needs of low-income, immigrant and minority children and their families.

Washington organized parents and staff to achieve a dramatic turnaround with Alternative Pathways, MESD's alternative schools program. After years of no success, the reorganized program graduated 80 students in 2001 and 100 more in 2002.

Gerri Washington's background includes a number of years as a labor union leader and organizer.

She is known in the community as a youth worker, educator, church member and advocate for economic development and environmental justice.

Report Released on Race-Neutral Alternatives in Higher Education

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige last week released "Race-Neutral Alternatives in Postsecondary Education: Innovative Approaches to Diversity," a report that seeks to foster innovative thinking at education institutions that are seeking race-neutral means to achieve diversity on their campuses.

"Make no mistake that it will take time, creativity and constant attention by government and university officials to pursue effective race-neutral policies," Paige said, add-

ing that Americans owe it to their children to face challenges head on, rather than looking for shortcuts that divide students by race.

"This report describes innovative, race-neutral ways to achieve diversity in higher education," he said. "We believe this

ally have not been "feeder schools" for those institutions.

Some states are creating new skills-development programs, ones designed to improve education achievement among students who attend traditionally low-performing schools.

It will take time, creativity and constant attention by government and university officials to pursue effective race-neutral policies.

—Rod Paige, U.S. Secretary of Education

report will equip college and university leaders with information they may need to explore these alternatives and ensure that all citizens have access to higher education in this country."

Education institutions that use race-neutral approaches use admissions and college preparatory policies that do not focus on or single out racial or ethnic groups for preferential treatment. The report demonstrates that as education institutions seriously investigate the options available to them, they will find that there are dozens of race-neutral approaches they can consider.

For example, many education institutions provide preferences on the basis of socioeconomic status and other colleges and universities are expanding their recruitment and outreach efforts by targeting students from schools that tradition-

Many universities are entering into partnerships with low-performing public schools to strengthen their students' abilities to succeed in college and Texas, California and Florida have all created admissions plans for students who finish at the top of their high school classes.

The report also demonstrates that, while many race-neutral approaches are relatively new, the early results from these programs are promising. The report points out that the initial positive results are only the beginning and the full advantages of many of the race-neutral alternatives will not be fully known until they are seriously implemented for a sufficient period of time and several classes of students have been able to benefit from them.

The report is available at: <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/raceneutral.html>.

Do Something Good for Yourself: 30-Minute Women's Heart Check

If you think women don't get heart disease... think again! Heart disease is the single largest killer of American women age 35 and older. Women are at least 5 times more likely to die from heart disease than breast cancer.

Spend 30 minutes doing something good for yourself. It could add years to your life.

The 30 Minute Women's Heart Check is a cardiac screening for women that includes:

- ♥ Cholesterol Testing (Total, HDL, LDL Triglycerides)
- ♥ EKG
- ♥ Blood Pressure
- ♥ Body Fat Measurement
- ♥ Blood Sugar
- ♥ Women's Heart Risk Profile



Participants will receive a personalized follow-up report that includes test results and recommendations.

Saturday, May 17th, 2003
8:00 am - 1:30 pm
Legacy Clinic Northeast
Emanuel Medical Plaza
300 N. Graham, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon

The screening fee is \$45.

Space is limited, so call today to make your appointment. **Appointments are required.**

Call Legacy Women's Services at 503-413-4840 to schedule your appointment.

www.legacyhealth.org/healthcare/heart/

Legacy Heart Institute

