



Office Depot Celebrated as Community Partner

Portland Mayor Vera Katz' policy development manager, Anthony Lincoln (from left), joins Office Depot store manager Jay Blunt, Laurel Barton of the Portland Business Alliance, Quin Ashton of Office Depot's corporate offices, and John McKibbin and Linda Murray of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce for Thursday's grand opening celebration of the Jantzen Beach store in north Portland. Vanessa Gaston, president of the Urban League of Portland, also attended the event. Office Depot gives back to the community by making donations to several local organizations, including the Urban League.

Workforce Leader Hired at TriMet

Evelyn Minor-Lawrence has joined TriMet in the newly created position of manager of workforce development and employee relations.

Minor-Lawrence formerly worked as a human resources manager for Multnomah County. She previously worked in personnel at the City of Beaverton, Oregon Dept. of Transportation and Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality.

Minor-Lawrence graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in urban affairs. She received her master's degree in urban affairs from the University of Wisconsin. She earned certification as an expert in her field from the National Institutes Society of Human Resource Management and the International Personnel Management Association.



Evelyn Minor-Lawrence

Landing a Career

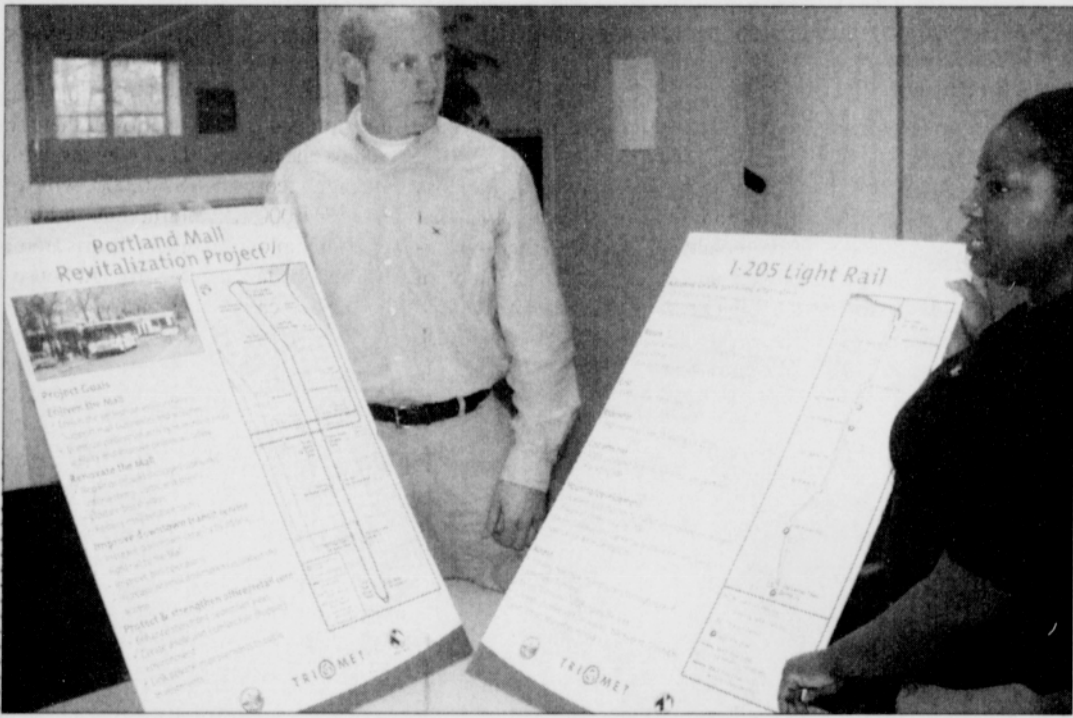


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Leah Wyatt (right) and TriMet supervisor J.C. Vannatta point to future transportation routes on display boards that Wyatt designed.

continued from Front
corporate careers.

Wyatt joined the Inroads talent pool after a competitive screening process. She then began the rigorous 18-hour training curriculum introducing her to the corporate environment and providing a unique understanding of workplace expectations.

"When we have a brand new talent pool of candidates competing for internships, we coach them on how to dress, how to write a resume and what to expect on a business interview so they can give a good first impression and talk about their hard and soft skills," said Marie Alaniz, market manager for Inroads.

Alaniz calls Inroads' facilitators "coaches" because they guide students through college and beyond. "The benefit for student is they're going to get real work experience with coaches and mentors to help them through their personal, academic and business careers," said Alaniz.

She said that businesses also benefit tremendously from Inroads interns, because they get highly trained interns who learn their positions and the culture of the company from a young age, engendering company loyalty.

She says that because Inroads participants are young people of color, the company is better able to serve the diverse communities it does business in. Inroads currently coaches 72 high school and college students from Oregon and southwest Washington in the program. Of those, 24 are African American, 28 are Asian American, 17 are Latino and 3 are Native American.

"We want companies to look at these students as contributors and not as tokens. Thinking strategically, employing a diverse workforce brings more business from those communities. This is a person who can do the job and can benefit the bottom line of the company," she said.

Wyatt learned vital professional

tools from Inroads, and made lifelong friends in the process.

"It gives students comfort knowing there are so many students of color that are graduating from college and you don't feel like you're square because you're going to graduate and going to make money one day," said Wyatt.

Her connection to Inroads hasn't ended since Wyatt started her career. She now volunteers for the program, designing press kits and increasing visibility for its public relations department and instructing new talent at Inroads' Leadership Institute.

"I still use Inroads," said Wyatt. "There's a strong alumni network and I try to help out in any way I can. I'll always give back to it by encouraging interns when I see them because that's what was done for me."

Inroads is accepting applications for new talent through Jan. 21. To learn more about the program and apply online, visit www.inroads.org.

Man Shot in Head at Club

A local man who once protested in front of former Police Chief Charles Moose's home was shot and critically injured at an after hours club on the 3500 block of Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Daniel Binns was shot in the head just after 1 a.m. Sunday. He was taken by ambulance to Legacy Emanuel Hospital.

There have been no arrests and police say they have no suspects.

Authorities are asking witnesses to come forward with information about the shooting.

Police said the shooting may have been drug- or gang-related.

Rental Discrimination

Nearly one of three Native Americans face discrimination when trying to rent a home, a rate higher than any other minority group, a government-sponsored study found.

Data previously released by the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development did not survey discrimination against Native Americans, but found that Hispanic renters were discriminated against 26 percent of the time, while rates were less for

African Americans (22 percent) and Asians (21 percent).

The latest study also found that Native Americans were more likely than other minorities to experience severe forms of discrimination, such as being lied to by a building manager that an available apartment was taken.

By comparison, other minorities were more likely to be exposed to more subtle forms of discrimination, such as being charged higher rents or application fees.

Close Save at Molly's

Tavern site called 'death trap' in 1998

The two-alarm fire that devastated the historical Molly McGuire tavern could have resulted in more than a dozen fatalities.

Former Portland Fire Inspector Russ Lippert called the tavern a "death trap" in 1998, and vacated the inhabitants of nine illegal apartments in a space above the

northwest Portland site.

"It's our job to look after these people," he says. "That fire raced through the building so fast that engine companies couldn't access the second floor because the stairs had been burned out. The occupants would not have gotten out in time."

Portland Fire & Rescue inspects all occupancies every two years, operating on a beefed up inspection schedule as a result of an Enhanced Fire Prevention program, designed to save lives and property through fire prevention.

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