

# CAREERS *special edition*

## Pride Runs Deep as New Graduates Begin Career Path

Hundreds of Oregonians are embarking on their journey to a professional career this summer, after graduating from colleges and high schools throughout the state.

For most who walk across the stage to receive their diplomas, they will hear the cheers of their children, spouses, and co-workers in the audience.

"The graduation ceremony is the most inspiring event for our students and faculty," said Pat Hardie, vice president/campus director at the University of Phoenix, Oregon campus. "Because our students average about 34 years old, we often have students who receive their first college diploma the same year their children are learning to walk or ride a bike."

Randolph Williams of Vancouver is an African-American father of three, married for nine years, and has overcome significant obstacles as he worked to get to where he is today. He credits his success largely to his family and his strong faith in God.

"I believe that the struggles endured in my childhood are what stimulated my ability to succeed," said Williams. "We were raised to believe that we could achieve our goals with fortitude, resilience, and faith in God."

Randolph will add a Master's degree in business administration/technology management from the University of Phoenix to his list of accomplishments.

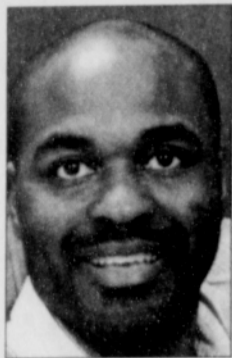
"I am proud to be leaving a legacy of excellence for my family," said Williams. "Meeting the criteria for

*I am proud to be leaving a legacy of excellence for my family.*

— Randolph Williams

obtaining my MBA has truly empowered me and created a level of self-confidence and self-respect."

Erin Wallner, an assistant branch manager for Washington Mutual



Randolph Williams



Rey Mene



Erin Wallner

Bank made the decision to enroll in college because she wanted a management degree and had to find a program that allowed her to continue to work full-time. She not only worked full-time at the bank, but had two young children who needed her time as well. Wallner was committed to making it work despite a heavy workload, family commitments and late night study schedules.

"My fellow students helped me through," said Wallner.

Wallner fought to push through and finish her last few classes neces-

and Air Force Reserve officer who pursued a business management degree. Throughout his time at the University of Phoenix, he struggled with a failing economy to find good work. But his fellow students were supportive and encouraged him to stay focused.

"This market was not kind, but I remained steadfast in my pursuit of a degree, because I knew it would somehow pay off," Mene said.

It has paid off. In March, the college graduate accepted a position as Office Manager Trainee for Willamette Dental. Mene be-

lieves that his college experience and the fact that he now holds a bachelors of science in business management, has prepared for the position and for whatever the future holds.

In Oregon since 1997, the University of Phoenix has six locations in Oregon including Tigard, Clackamas, Hillsboro, Albany and Salem, and a new campus in Vancouver. For program information, call the admissions office at 503-670-0590 or 360-693-2525 or visit the Web site at <http://phoenix.edu/oregon>.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

### Yo! Center Helps Young Adults

Patrice Wilson works with Walter "Tiny" Butler at the Youth Opportunities (Yo!) Center on Northeast Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The center helps prepare young people for jobs and careers in today's challenging workforce. Yo! employment specialists help create resumes, build networking skills, find paid internships and locate volunteer opportunities to give job seekers work experience and many career options.

### Employment Firm Shares Secrets

Insider tips about resume building

Recently, an Internet company undertook an immense project of conducting a survey of over 2,500 recruiters and headhunters throughout the U.S. and Canada to find out their complaints with many resumes.

"It really validated our thoughts that recruiters are receiving hundreds of resumes a day and that they see major problems with them," said Mike Worthington of ResumeDoctor.com. "It also provided valuable insight into the latest trends in Internet based job seeking."

According to executive search recruiter Terry Cantrell of Panama City, Fla., "People often try to write a resume so generic that a reader has no idea what industry the candidate comes from. I am usually looking for a reason to exclude resumes, not a reason to include them."

ResumeDoctor.com provides resume-consulting services for job seekers in all industries. Recruiters report that spelling errors, typos and poor grammar are the first resumes to be cut.

They also dislike resumes that are too duty oriented, and don't explain what the job seeker's accomplish-

ments were and how they did so.

Recruiters do not enjoy fumbling through resumes with inaccurate dates and unexplained gaps.

For more information about how to get your resume to stand out, visit [www.resumedoctor.com/ResourceCenter.htm](http://www.resumedoctor.com/ResourceCenter.htm).

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