

Celebrating Women's History & Careers

# New Role for Diversity Advocate

Leann Johnson, former manager of cultural services for the City of Vancouver, has been named Director for Equity and Diversity at Clark College. In her newly created position, Johnson will be responsible for directing and promoting the College's diversity and equity initiatives in areas of recruiting, training and development, and reporting.

She will also serve as a member of the Executive Cabinet and will report to the President on activities related to harassment/discrimination claims and for the campus multicultural committee.

Prior to her work with the city, Johnson served as the Office of Intercultural Affairs and Civil Rights for YWCA of Clark County and the YWCA Diversity Task Force. She de-



Leann Johnson signed the group's diversity institute, Southwest Washington's first series of courses on equity and diversity.

"The commitment to reestablishing a position focusing on

equity and diversity is important to fulfilling the college's mission and strategic plan imperatives," said Katrina Golder, Clark College associate vice president of human resources.

A lifelong resident of the Pacific Northwest, Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in communications management from the University of Portland, and she completed an internship in public relations and organizational communications at Emmanuel Hospital in Portland.

Johnson was honored as a "Rising Star" by The Columbian, received the 1993 Val Joshua Racial Justice Award, and was selected as a 1998 Woman of Achievement. She was appointed to the Washington State Arts Commission in 2004 by Governor Locke and is a member of the NAACP.

# A True Barrier Breaker

## Young female opened college to all



Vivian Malone Jones

Before becoming University of Alabama's first graduate of color, she had to stroll past an angry Governor Wallace during his infamous "stand in the schoolhouse door" racist maneuver in 1963.

But Wallace was forced to yield as federal troops and U.S. Marshals joined a deputy U.S. attorney in "holding the door open" for Vivian Malone Jones and James Hood, the college's first black students.

The four-term governor's pledge of "Segregation Now, Segregation Tomorrow and Segregation Forever," was drowned out by the footsteps of the two young African-Americans, not even old enough to vote.

Jones left a legacy that despite her double minority status as a black woman she would let nothing stand in her way. Graduating with a Bachelors degree in business management in 1965, she went to work for the civil rights division of U.S. Department of Justice, a fitting position.

She would later forgive Wallace, giving him a warm and welcome greeting when they met in 1996. The governor was weak and in frail health at that time, however he shocked the nation when he verbally apologized to Jones and asked for her forgiveness while the media looked on. He died two years later.

Throughout her entire career and beyond, she fought for equality across the board not only inside the classroom but outside it as well. Her determination was one of the defining elements that changed the hearts and minds of this leading Alabama university.

Hood noted that while black students at other all-white colleges endured harsh verbal and physical harassment and even being spit at, "But for me and Vivian, those things never transpired."

Another testament to her courage came just hours after her forced admission, a well-known and highly

respected black civil right leader, Medgar Evers, was gunned down.

Though Malone was extremely frightened by the murder, she remained determined to see that her seven younger siblings had fair access to equal civil rights. As the eldest of eight children she often had to take charge of tough situations. Her answer to the horrible slaughter of Medgar Evers was simple and straightforward.

"I decided not to show any fear and went to class the next day."

Her graduation from the 134-year-old college followed in the footsteps of another black woman, Autherine Lucy, who had tried nearly a decade earlier, but dropped out after three days of rioting.

"Walking through the door that had been closed to me and others of my color was a step toward ending segregation in the South," Jones said in an interview early last year. "I thank God for selecting me for that purpose."

On Oct. 14, 2005, Jones died from complications after a stroke. She was 63.

Her remarkable courage will not be forgotten. Ron Weber is a writer and speaker on African American history. He is a regular contributor to the Portland Observer.



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# New Century Scholar Named

Portland Community College student Shanta Anderson is making a difference in her life and community.

The southeast Portland resident has been selected as a New Century Scholar, the highest-scoring student from Oregon's All USA Academic Team competition. A single mother of two children, she is a student in the PCC Alcohol and Drug Counseling program where she has earned a 3.8 grade-point average. She is also involved at the Cascade Campus in north Portland and PCC Southeast Center, where she serves the Women's Resource



Shanta Anderson

Center and organizes for National Organization for Women.

"I am the first in my family to attend college," she said. "I grew

up with separated parents who were both addicts and alcoholics. I have refused to follow their footsteps and have been honored with people throughout each stage of my life to positively guide and mentor me. I am setting an example not only for my children, but inspiring those who have known me and those whom I meet along the way."

Anderson also volunteers at the Yamhill County Prevention Program and Cook Elementary School in McMinnville and is an intern youth counselor at LifeworksNW.



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