

Aspiring Teachers Program Celebrates

Students honored at PCC Cascade

A culturally diverse group of people who have chosen teaching as a career to benefit their communities and society at a whole will be honored Friday, May 19 during a "Celebration of Students" event at the Cascade Campus of Port-

land Community College in north Portland.

The Portland Teachers Program holds the annual celebration for aspiring teachers, from college freshmen to graduate students as well as program alumni.

A reception will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the PCC Cascade Student Center dining room with the celebration program following from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the campus' new Moriarty

Arts and Humanities Building.

Attending will be program participants and their families, leaders from the African American, native American, Latino and Asian American communities and representatives from education, business and government.

The Portland Teachers Program is a partnership effort among Portland Public Schools, PCC, Portland State University

and the University of Portland to increase the number of cultural competent teachers for Portland schools.

Implemented in 1989 as a response to the critical shortage of culturally and ethnically diverse teachers, the program has graduated 100 teachers, most of whom continue to teach in Portland schools. Several have also become principals and vice principals.

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Advocating for Community Colleges

Clark College President leads in national post

R. Wayne Branch, president of Clark College in Vancouver, has been elected to the American Association of Community Colleges Board of Directors for a three-year term following a year of service on the panel.

AACC is the primary advocacy organization for the nation's community colleges and represents more than 1,200 associate degree-granting institutions or 95 percent of all accredited two-year community colleges, junior and technical colleges in the United States.

Branch said he is enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve the national organization while validating his Clark College Board's vision - and the community's aspirations - for Clark College.

Hal Dengerink, chancellor and senior administrative officer for Washington State University Vancouver, knows the advantages Branch's national-level position could provide to Southwest Washington.

"Dr. Branch's election to the AACC board is very much deserved," said Dengerink. "He has established himself as one who cares about this community and who works tirelessly to implement long-term systemic changes to improve its educational infrastructure. He has demonstrated an unusual ability to work cooperatively with other institutions to address the complex and comprehensive needs



R. Wayne Branch

of the community. This kind of thinking serves our students and our community well, and this position with AACC will assist him in continuing to serve this community for many years to come."

Community colleges are the largest and fastest growing sector of higher education, serving over 11 million students each year. Advocacy by AACC and by presidents and boards throughout the nation has resulted in the preservation of several programs and funding sources that are critical to community colleges and the students they serve.

"This recognition is a reflection of Dr. Branch's status as a national community college leader. His continued work on the AACC board will bring national attention to Southwest Washington in the higher education arena. It's a compliment for Dr. Branch, Clark College and the community we serve."

Quality Care Drives Nursing Professional Administrator leads staff of 1,500

A 14-year nurse leader at Providence Portland Medical Center was named recently to lead the medical facility's nursing staff of 1,500.

Karen Logsdon, the assistant administrator of Nursing and Patient Care Services at Providence Portland Medical Center, is credited with helping the medical provider earn a "Magnet" status, signifying the very best nursing care. Only about 100 hospitals in the United States - just 2 percent - have received this national designation.

Logsdon has served in a number of positions at Providence, including as a nurse manager, co-director for the Robert Wood Johnson grant to improve and redesign patient care, and manager of patient safety and quality improvement.

She also was instrumental in the medical center receiving the Gold Seal of Approval for stroke care and certification as a Primary Stroke Center, a designa-



Karen Logsdon

tion from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

In addition, Logsdon began, in partnership with the University of Portland, a dedicated nursing education unit at Providence. This approach to clinical education for registered nurses has increased the number of graduates and helped to insure the community a ready supply of nurses.

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