

Activist Fired

continued ▲ from Front

provide staff and financial support to 12 recognized volunteer neighborhood associations. It also manages the TriMet Rider Advocates and the Youth Gang Outreach programs, and provides office space for two Neighborhood Crime Prevention Program specialists.

Employees, including the executive director, work without contracts on an "at will" basis, and can be terminated without cause. Such firings have occurred in the past in some of the city's six other district neighborhood offices, but Monday's action was a first for NECN since it was established in 1975.

Santos-Lyons' hiring followed a torturous process.

The group's last permanent director, John Canda, resigned in late 2006 to fill a newly-created position in mayor Tom Potter's office. Former board chair Willie Brown took over as acting director, originally on a three-month contract that was extended twice.

Brown, who at first said he was interested in filling the position permanently, eventually said he had changed his mind. A board selection committee eventually narrowed the field of applicants to three finalists: Crime Prevention Specialist Celeste Carey, and longtime community activists Anjala Ebelebe and Ann Rothert, of the Woodlawn and Concordia neighborhood associations, respectively. The hiring committee had a tie vote between two of these candidates. At that point they decided to consider other applicants, including Santos-Lyons.

Illumination Project Spotlights Racism

With focus on social justice

Portland Community College's social justice theater group, the Illumination Project, has announced a winter schedule of free and open to the public performances designed to battle racism.

The project has the dual purpose of providing participating students with an opportunity to develop skills as educators, activists and leaders, and to educate student, staff, faculty and community audiences on social justice issues.

Under the guidance of program coordinator Jeannie LaFrance, the diverse group of students has produced three original plays addressing the issues of racism. These plays are based on real-life experiences that the 17 students in the project have had in their own lives. Performances address issues of immigration, interracial relationships and discrimination in the classroom.

"The interactive theater experience gives the audience the ability to physi-



Jeannie LaFrance (right) takes her students through a group exercise during rehearsal for the Illumination Project.

cally take the stage and act out how they would change an oppressive situation for the better," said LaFrance. "Through active learning, student edu-

cators hope to give their audiences the tools they need to act the next time they experience racism."

Performances are scheduled on

the Sylvania, Rock Creek and Cascade campuses. For more information or to schedule a performance, call 503-977-8149.

You are Invited to Attend!
ANNUAL NATIONAL BLACK HIV/AIDS AWARENESS DAY
 art contest
AWARDS CEREMONY
 Saturday, February 9, 2008
 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
 Luther Hall
 Concordia University
 2811 NE Holman Street
 Portland, Oregon

If you need additional info, please contact
 Ronnie Meyers @ 503-988-3030 x 25677 or ronnie.w.meyers@co.multnomah.or.us
 African American AIDS Awareness Action Alliance

Schools Foundation Director Leaving

Departure called 'mutual'

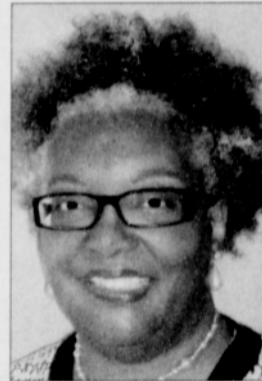
The executive director of the Portland Schools Foundation is leaving. Connie Van Brunt, a Chicago charter-schools leader, was recruited to lead the foundation last summer.

Her departure follows a report in Willamette Week that the foundation's board was investigating how Van Brunt used foundation money to pay her rent—beyond the agreed-upon date after she moved to Portland—and whether she sought to hire her husband, Michael Samachson, as a grant writer.

Doug Nichols, foundation president and board chair issued the following statement: "When the Portland Schools

Foundation hired Connie Van Brunt as executive director, it was with the understanding that she was a highly skilled educational reform advocate and practitioner with a proven track record of closing the achievement gap. We continue to believe

that today. In Portland, Ms. Van Brunt launched an agenda of community engagement work, education reform work and evaluative outcome analysis of significant caliber, paralleling the work she has effectively pursued throughout her 30-year pro-



Connie Van Brunt

fessional career.

"However, various initiatives and responsibilities associated with the role of executive director have emerged which do not reflect Ms. Van Brunt's areas of focus. Therefore, Ms. Van Brunt and the Portland Schools Foundation have mutually agreed to part company. There are no

allegations of wrongdoing by either party. There is no pending financial investigation."

Fred Miller, a retired Portland General Electric executive, has been named the foundation's interim director.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY IN HEALTHCARE



Legacy Emanuel Hospital is a major employer in Northeast Portland and a cornerstone for community health and healing.

We believe that everyone should enjoy the best healthcare available.

As the only local and community-owned nonprofit health system, Legacy Health System takes a leading role in raising the health status of all in our community.

In honor of Black History Month, we think it is fitting to look at the role we play in addressing health disparities.

We support dozens of efforts aimed at improving the health of people of racial and ethnic diversity. Such steps as:

- Helping cooks at Peninsula Children's Center in North Portland prevent childhood obesity

- Partnering with the African American Health Coalition regarding diabetes management
- Supporting a program from Self Enhancement Inc. that provides preventive dental care to youth who have not had regular visits to dentists
- Providing a diverse workplace to reflect the communities we serve

In addition, we provide more than \$127 million in health services to people with limited ability to pay.

For more information on Legacy's work in the community, see www.legacyhealth.org/inthecommunity

Legacy Health System



Legacy Health System, a nonprofit organization, includes Emanuel Hospital & Health Center, Emanuel Children's Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital & Medical Center, Meridian Park Hospital, Mount Hood Medical Center, Salmon Creek Hospital, Legacy Clinics and CareMark/Managed HealthCare Northwest PPO. ©2008

PACT Parents and Children Together

Mothers: **Is raising a child with ADHD stressing you out?**

Parents and Children Together (PACT) is a research study comparing two approaches to helping families with children with ADHD. Eligible families receive either an ADHD family advocate or education materials.

You may be eligible if you have a child with ADHD and live in the Portland area.

There is no cost to participate in this study. You will receive a gift card of at least \$50 every six months.

For more information:
 call **503 418-3603**
 or email pact@ohsu.edu

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