

Education & Careers



Northwest Voice For Christ Ministries
"An Interdenominational Church"

THE VOICE SPEAKS



**We Reach,
Teach &
Preach in
Jesus' name!!!**

Pastor Bishop H. L. & Elect Lady Earlean P. Hodge
Pastor/Teacher/Revivalist

Sundays: Worship Service — 12:00-2:00 P.M.
Bible Study—Wednesdays—6:00—8:30P.M.

🎵🎵 **FIRST ANNUAL CHURCH MUSICAL** 🎵🎵
November 20th @ 6PM

**Luther Hall, Ainsworth to 27th turn left to
Univ. campus to 1st parking lot on right!**

Location: Concordia University Campus
2800 NE Liberty (The GRW Library, Room 303)
Portland, OR. 97211

To inquire about our Church please call: (503) 863-6545 or
hodghepsks@msn.com www.nwvoiceforchrist.com

Cascade Connections

BY ALGIE C. GATEWOOD



BY DR. ALGIE GATEWOOD

From the time it was established in 1908, Jefferson High School has been an integral part of its north Portland neighborhood. As the Jefferson community has changed over the years — from the postwar era, when many African Americans settled in the area, on through its present-day multiethnic incarnation — the school has remained at the center of the neighborhood's identity and character.

In recent years, as attendance has declined, various reorganizations have been attempted and principals have come and gone, many in the community have worried, quite justifiably, about the venerable school's future. Speculation has abounded as to whether the school would be shut down or, perhaps, somehow annexed or taken over by the community's other educational anchor, Portland Community College's Cascade Campus.

I'm here today to tell you that's just not the case. Jefferson will remain

open. Its relationship with Cascade Campus will broaden and deepen in the coming years, but the two institutions will remain distinct from one another.

In October, the Portland Public Schools board approved a series of resolutions designating Jefferson as a pre-college focus high school with a robust Middle College program. Students living in the Jefferson neighborhood will make an affirmative choice, after eighth grade, either to enter one of three comprehensive high schools, based on address, or to attend the Middle College program at Jefferson. So what does this mean, exactly?

For several years now, in partnership with Portland Public Schools, the Middle College program at Cascade Campus has enabled students from Jefferson to enroll in college classes, and earn college credit, while they're still in high school. The program helps students acclimate to the pace and rigor of college-level studies and — perhaps more importantly — helps them to see college as a place where they belong and can succeed.

The program is a success, and has been since its formation in 2005. In fact, since 2007 — when the Middle College partnership with Portland Public Schools was established in its current form — 133 of 135 Middle College students have graduated from high school, for a graduation rate of 99 percent. Of these, 96 have gone on to continue their college-level studies the following year, for a college-going rate of 73 percent.

By way of comparison, both of these figures — a 99 percent graduation rate and a 73 percent college-going rate — far exceed the statewide averages of 66 percent and 48 percent, respectively.

So what does this mean for Jefferson and its students? So far, the Middle College has been an "opt-in" program — the only participants have been those students who have chosen to do so. Starting in the fall of 2011, incoming freshmen will choose Jefferson with a clear expectation that they will participate in the Middle College program. Jefferson students will access college-level coursework as they demonstrate readiness for it.

Most Jefferson students will pursue one of two primary educational goals: the Oregon Transfer Module (which is essentially half of a two-year Associate's degree), for those interested in eventually moving on to a four-year college or university; or a

Partnership with Jefferson

Career & Technical Education certificate, for those interested in moving into the workplace after one or two years of technical training. Ambitious, well-prepared students willing to prioritize college-level coursework may be able to earn up to an Associate's degree by the time they graduate from high school.

Regardless of his or her choice of educational pathway, every Middle College student will receive the same array of wraparound services that have helped make the program such a success: individual advising and counseling support, academic support in the form of tutoring and group study sessions, help with navigating the college admissions and registration processes and — throughout high school — help with researching colleges and careers, finding college scholarships, and choosing the right post-secondary training to put them on track for a 21st-century career.

Of course, participation in the Middle College won't guarantee that a student's every dream will come true. Nor will the program absolve them of the need to work hard to achieve success. It will, however, give them the opportunity to be something that many perhaps never imagined they would be — college students.

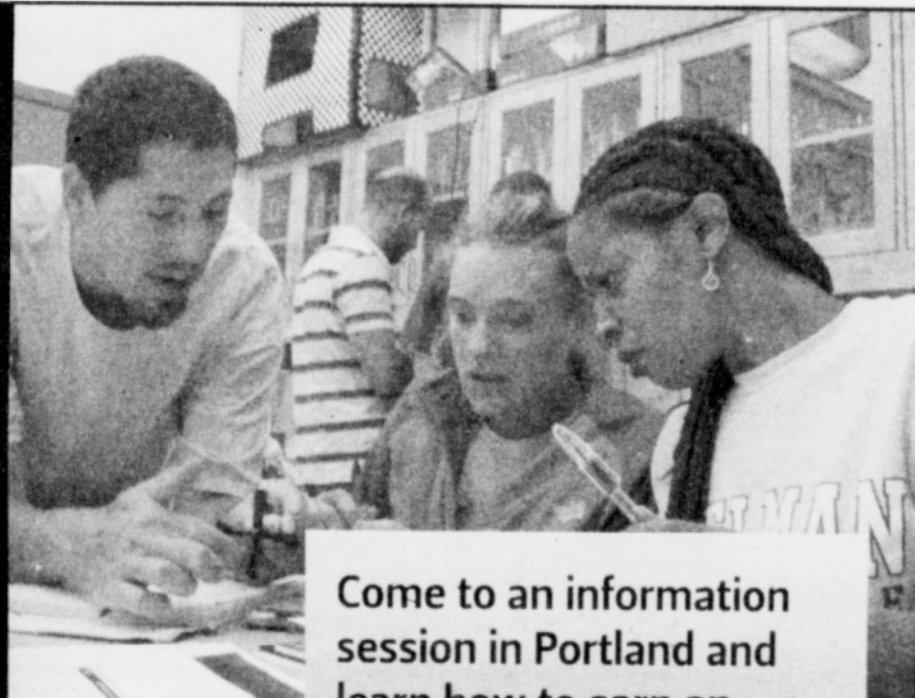
And therein lies the greatest benefit of the Middle College program, in my opinion — belief. Many young people, particularly those from traditionally underserved backgrounds, see college as something that is out of reach, something reserved for those with more advantages. But when the Middle College puts them into college classrooms, alongside real college students, something remarkable happens — they begin to feel like they belong. College becomes not a far-off dream, but the natural next step in their personal evolution.

The transformation of Jefferson to a pre-college focus high school does not herald the end of a longtime neighborhood cornerstone, nor does it signal the school's absorption by PCC. Rather, it marks a unique and valuable opportunity for the young people of our community to take their lives in exciting new directions.

A wise American, Chief Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, once said that a "mind stretched to a new idea never goes back to its original dimensions." If you are a current or future Jefferson student — or the parent of one — I urge you to grab this opportunity with both hands, and stretch your mind to new ideas.

Dr. Algie Gatewood is president of Portland Community College's Cascade Campus.

**Interested
in becoming
a teacher in
less than a
year?**



Come to an information session in Portland and learn how to earn an OSU master's degree, a teaching license, and an endorsement to teach English-language learners ... in just 11 months.

November 18, 2010

4:30 - 6 p.m.

Reflections Coffee House

446 NE Killingsworth St.

Portland, Oregon

Contact: Ken Winograd, 541-737-5988

Planning to attend the info session?

Let us know by registering online.

ecampus.oregonstate.edu/mat/info

ecampus.oregonstate.edu
extending osu worldwide

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY