

# Education & Careers

## Career Path Success Initiative

Leaders announce sweeping effort

Hundreds of education, business, and community leaders have launched a new "cradle to career" initiative that creates a new path to success for local young people.

The effort will track key measures of educational, social, and economic progress from birth to job entry in an annual report that will guide community leaders and hold them accountable for results.

A broad coalition of supporters – including Portland Mayor Sam Adams and Portland State University President Wim Wiewel – came together Nov. 4 to announce details of the new strategy, review the first report, and discuss how to coordinate their work to better support children, teenagers, and young adults.

"Every Portland parent – every Multnomah County parent – should have the expectation that their kid will cross the stage (to get a diploma)," Adams said. "We can do it starting today."

Marcus Mundy, president of the Urban League of Portland, urged supporters to find a better way to work collaboratively to improve educational outcomes for all students.

"One thing people in this room can do is put the urgency back in urgency," Mundy said. "How can we take the data and the knowl-

edge that we have of what works and put them into action?"

Partners in the new strategy include the city of Portland, Multnomah County, Portland Public Schools and other Multnomah County school districts, PSU, the Leaders Roundtable, Portland Business Alliance, and other civic organizations. The non-profit Portland Schools Foundation will guide the effort. PSU researchers developed the key metrics in the report.

"Our community is frustrated by the failure rate and

the dropout rate in our schools, and we need a community-wide effort to help more students succeed," Wiewel said. "The initiative is more promising than past efforts because it will be based on proven strategies and by practices that can be sustained over time."

The initiative is modeled after an effort in Cincinnati called the Strive Partnership, which brought together more than 300 organizations to focus on education across a metro area that includes southern Ohio and northern Kentucky. After more than four years, Strive reports increases in reading, writing and math achievement as well as the high school graduation rate in Cincinnati schools.



Marcus Mundy



## International Focus Brings Diversity

Nguyen Truong is one of many Vietnamese students at Portland Community College, and one of 700 students from 90 countries enrolled at PCC. The college has been growing its International Education Program to help meet its mission of achieving diversity goals.

## Making a Difference

Marneet Lewis of northeast Portland has earned a "Making a Difference" youth leadership award from the Portland Office of Neighborhood for her leadership in advancing the inclusion and recognition of people with disabilities.

"This distinction recognizes the efforts of not only me but that of many young people who daily challenge the cloak of disability not as defining barriers but rather as opportunities to educate," Lewis said.

Lewis is a senior at Concordia University and a member of the Judicial Committee of the Associate Students of Concordia University.

Having experienced learning disabilities in her own life, she has never minimized her academic potential. She has been an honor student and a national voice for young leaders with disabilities.



Marneet Lewis of Portland stands up for disability rights as a student leader.

## Rose Court Grows Again

Applications are out and recruiting is underway for the 2011 Portland Rose Festival Court program presented by Pacific Power.

After expanding the court in 2009 to accept metro area schools, the Rose Festival is again loosening its eligibility requirements to allow students from metro area 4A schools to apply.

Now for the first time in Rose Festival history students from Molalla, Estacada, Gladstone and LaSalle can compete for the crown of Queen of Rosaria. In all, 46 schools in Multnomah, Clackamas

and Washington counties are now eligible to participate in the court program.

The selection of Rose Festival princesses from local high schools has been a Rose Festival tradition since 1930.

The mission of the court is to provide scholarships for higher education, to promote community outreach and volunteerism, to offer networking and mentoring opportunities to outstanding young women in a program that perpetuates an appreciation for Rose Festival history and tradition.

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