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A Role Model for Student Success

College dean speaks out on staying motivated

BY CARI HACHMANN
 THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

As a kid, Tuajuanda Jordan hated science. Biology was unquestionably boring, and she did not know a single scientist. "When I was growing up, there were no African-American scientists," said Jordan.

In the 11th grade, however, a chemistry class seized her curiosity and the young introvert realized that many of the answers to her questions could be answered in the laboratory, studying the science of matter.

Jordan soon advanced in the academic lab world; she graduated from Fisk University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, and in 1989 she became the first African-American woman to graduate with a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Purdue University.

Today, as Lewis and Clark's new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Jordan hopes to act as role model for all students who seek higher education, while encouraging diversity in



PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Tuajuanda Jordan is a role model for diversity in the sciences and other fields. She is starting the school year as the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Lewis & Clark College.

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Hana Kent of the Freedom Writers student writing group at Roosevelt High School focuses on community activism by helping paint a vibrant mural that depicts historical figures on a wall inside the north Portland school's College and Career Transition Center.

Empowering Youth through Writing

In developing Roosevelt's College and Career Transition Center, one goal of the new writing center is to familiarize high school students with the writing process in preparation for college success.

Angela Nusom, the north Portland school's College and Career transition manager, said the writing center will also link education with youth empowerment.

She said writing gives voice to a minority population that has historically been denied access to college.

Within a social justice framework, students can use the writing center as an outlet to create a new narrative for them-

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