

A Role Model for Student Success

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science and other fields.

"It's important for students to see people like me," said Jordan, during the first week of student orientation, sitting in her office wearing a bright orange blouse, the school color for Lewis & Clark.

Jordan, who was the first in her family to go to college and graduate, continued, "It's also important for students to know that to go places; you don't need to have a mentor that looks like you."

As long as students are given respect and guidance, Jordan believes they will stay motivated for success, and her wealth of experience in science education backs that up.

After completing her postdoctoral training, Jordan served as a chemistry professor and associate vice president of academic affairs at Xavier University in New Orleans.

When Hurricane Katrina

drowned much of the historically-black campus, Jordan and fellow administrators took pay cuts to ensure there were enough resources for Xavier to re-open its doors as the first college in New Orleans to welcome displaced students back to classes.

After 11 years at Xavier, Jordan left in 2005 and accepted the position as director of the Science Education Alliance of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, where she joined scientists and educators in a collaborative effort to enhance science literacy among college freshman and train a future generation of scientists.

In 2008, she headlined the National Genomics Research Initiative, a program created to captivate undergrads in the field of science, specifically genomics, by immersing them in a real scientific research experience.

"Students become more engaged when they realize they are working on something they didn't know the answer to," said Jordan, who encouraged students to act like scientists, talk like scientists, and test hypotheses like scientists, "And the true moment of discovery is when they get the answer."

The Geonomics Initiative, what Jordan describes as a cookbook lab experience for educators that is cost-effective and retains about 90 percent of students in science programs, is now implemented at over 60 institutions.

In addition to publishing and presenting on science education, Jordan's research has been featured in top scientific journals. Jordan decided to accept the offer at Lewis & Clark because of the potential and energy she saw in the school and commitment of faculty to students in every study.

"There is a true relationship between students and faculty, where they appear to be colleagues," she said about the Portland school. "Staff are committed to student success, you can feel it."

Arts scholarship winner at Portland State University. Her work has been displayed in various venues around Portland and remains heavily involved with the artistic future of younger generations in the community.

Empowering Youth through Writing

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selves and others and ideally, flip the power imbalance.

A mural, painted by local Portland artist "Mo" and the Freedom Writers, expresses stu-

dents' dreams and passions and symbolizes conscious-raising, the power of deep thought, and writing as a social movement.



Mo, who chooses to keep her name anonymous, was the first African American Visual

Arts scholarship winner at Portland State University. Her work has been displayed in various venues around Portland and remains heavily involved with the artistic future of younger generations in the community.

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