

# Affordable Mental Health

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of counselors," said Mueller.

"We do live supervision with students before they graduate, so

counselors.

"One thing we are working on right now is increasing our services for Spanish speaking clients," she said. "Not only are these

"This is Lewis and Clark's opportunity to really give service to the community," she said. "The center offers a safe and nurturing environment at low cost, so we can serve people who normally don't have access to these services."

The Lewis & Clark Community Counseling Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. It is not an inpatient or emergency care facility. For more information about the center call 503-768-6320 or visit [lclark.edu/offices/counseling\\_service](http://lclark.edu/offices/counseling_service).



PHOTO BY MINDY COOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Antonia Mueller directs mental health services for people in need by overseeing the new Lewis and Clark College Counseling Center, which is geared to providing affordable services.

they can be ready in the field right when they graduate so they can provide services to clients from a diverse background."

According to graduate student Rico Garcia, 25, the center has a strong social justice perspective.

"It allows us to address social economic status, racial inequality, sexism, homophobia, ablist, ageism, and understand how this interacts with our community and our clients," he said.

"You can't just treat the client's symptoms. You have to address the epidemiology of the problem or situation that brought them in."

Currently, Mueller said there are over 30 students involved with the center, where they receive supervision and education from eight faculty members.

Although the center is not a crisis intervention facility; and does not offer medication management, the clinic has three programs offered, including a marriage coupling and counseling program, mental health counseling, and co-occurring and addiction counseling. "Encompassing all that in one center is a unique service to the community," she said.

She added, the center strives for a diverse faculty and array of

individuals dealing with economic pressure and downfall, but they are also dealing with power struggles, being a minority and oppression."

So we try to work within this community because we can help empower relationships by providing a safe and nurturing environment, said Mueller.

"We have faculty members who are themselves Hispanic, and they feel like they can provide the expertise and knowledge to students to help them go out into the community and provide a high level of care."

She added that the location of the center, which shares a building with the Confederate Tribes of Grand Ronde, was chosen to ensure individuals from throughout the metro area could easily access their resources. "We are right on a bus line and bike route with free parking," she said. "It was really important to us to make sure we are accessible easily by public transportation."

Although she said there are many aspects of the center that she is proud of, Mueller said the most exciting aspect is that the college is deepening their already existing connection with others.

## Racial Gap in Schools Found

A new study of large school systems shows that the racial gap in the punishment of students is similar to the disparities found in the criminal justice system for adults.

Data from the Department of Education show that African-American students are suspended or "referred" to law enforcement by school officials far more often than white students, even within the same school.

The data showed that African American students represented 24 percent of enrollment but 35 percent of arrests. White students

accounted for 31 percent of enrollment and 21 percent of arrests. For Hispanic students, there was less of a disparity in arrests. They accounted for 34 percent of enrollment and 37 percent of arrests.

Officials caution that there are many possible explanations for the disparity, such as poverty and access to the best classes and teachers. But one implication of the study is the pattern of racial difference in the courts and in prison begins at the school level.

According to the NAACP, a student who is arrested is twice as likely to drop out.

# Get over it. Get screened.

### A colonoscopy can save your life.

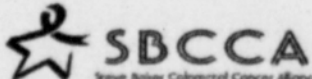
We know. It's not a test you're looking forward to. But because colon cancer has no early warning signs and can be deadly if it progresses, screening is essential. Colorectal cancer is highly preventable and, if caught early, it's highly curable. If you are African-American and age 45 or older, ask your doctor about colon cancer screening.

#### Free community forum

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Join us at a free forum, where Providence physicians offer advice and a local family shares how colon cancer touched their lives. While you're there, enjoy a free healthy lunch and enter a prize drawing. **Space is limited, and reservations are required.**

For more information or to register, please call Providence Resource Line at 503-574-6595 or visit [www.providence.org/coloncancer](http://www.providence.org/coloncancer).

At Providence, it's not just health care, it's how we care.™

Free community forums are in partnership with  SBCCA  
Socio-Behavioral Colorectal Cancer Alliance

#### Free community forum

**Friday, March 16**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Providence St. Vincent  
Medical Center  
Souther Auditorium  
9205 SW Barnes Road  
Portland

**Wednesday, March 21**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Providence Portland  
Medical Center  
Cancer Center Amphitheater  
4805 NE Glisan St.  
Portland

**Friday, March 23**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Providence Milwaukie  
Hospital  
Mother Gamelin and  
Mother Joseph  
conference rooms  
10150 SE 32nd Ave.  
Milwaukie

