

# CAREER & EDUCATION

## Portland Community College's Diamond Alums

### Group represents 50 years of opening doors

Fifty Portland Community College alumni are being honored as PCC Diamond Alums in tribute to the college's 50th anniversary.

Skloot; Executive Director of Brooks Staffing Samuel Brooks; Portland City Commissioner Randy Leonard; and English Channel swimmer Karen

specialist, teacher or principal for such Portland Public Schools as Adams, Benson, Cleveland, Jefferson and Franklin high schools,

in addition to Clinton Street, Whitaker, Meek, Irvington and Ockley Green schools.

Even though Berry was being thanked by PCC, Berry was much more thankful to the college.

"I'm grateful to PCC," he said. "Thank you, PCC, for helping me and thousands of students to acquire the educational skills necessary to become productive citizens in this world and impacting my life forever."



Sharon Maxwell-Hendricks, owner and chief executive officer of the Boanerges Group, receives a Diamond Alum Award from Portland Community College District President Preston Pulliams.

The list of alumni is long and diverse. From recent graduates to older retirees, they were selected because they all have overcome adversities, achieved success that made a difference in the community, and have opened the doors to opportunities for others.

"They all each have their own great story to tell and how the college positively impacted their lives," said PCC District President Preston Pulliams. "The award is a symbol of those opportunities they received at PCC."

Some of the winners include former Portland Mayor and Police Chief Tom Potter; Oregon State Rep. Julie Parrish; former state senator and current Deputy Director at Oregon Department of Human Services Margaret Carter; best-selling authors Heidi Darrow and Rebecca

Gaffney.

The college sought public nominations for outstanding alums with the goal of honoring 50 people who exemplify the values of PCC. A panel of judges from both inside and outside the college reviewed the nominations and selected the final 50 alums in February.

At the awards ceremony last month, PCC staff, local leaders and past employees celebrated the alumni.

Ken Berry is one of the 50 Diamond Alums and served as keynote speaker. Berry worked at KGW radio as a disc jockey in the 1960s while taking classes at PCC's then new Sylvania Campus. He graduated from University of Oregon's Teacher Corps Program and spent the majority of his 40-year educational career serving as a reading

### First Lady to Address OSU Grads

(AP)--Michelle Obama will speak at three college graduation ceremonies this spring, including two in key general election battleground states.

Mrs. Obama will deliver the commencement address at Oregon State University, which has been recognized for its efforts to promote healthy communities, a key priority of the first lady. Mrs.



Michelle Obama

Obama's brother, Craig Robinson, is the coach of the school's men's basketball team.

Mrs. Obama's first commencement address will be at Virginia Tech.

The White House says the first lady has been inspired by the school's resiliency following the deadly 2007 campus shootings. Mrs. Obama will also speak at North Carolina A&T, a historically black university.

Virginia and North Carolina are both politically important states that will be crucial to President Barack Obama's reelection prospects.

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