

# CAREER & EDUCATION

## Advocating for Students of Color

Portland educator honored for equity leadership

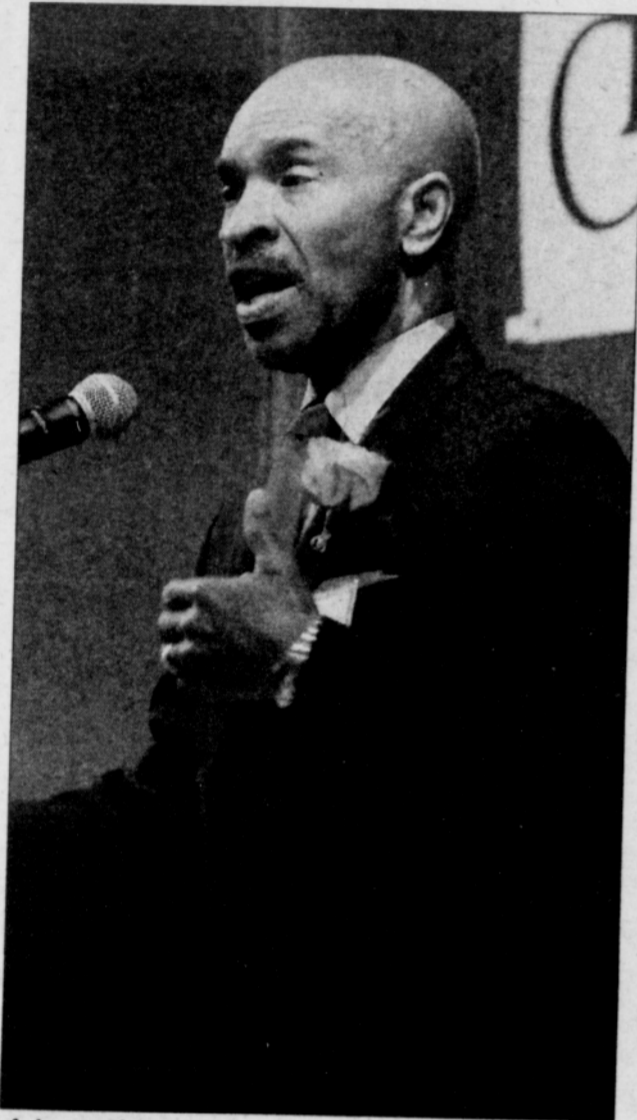
to actively mentor the next generation of leaders," said Carole Smith, superintendent of Portland Public Schools.

When he accepted the award, Poe said he could feel the presence of his grand-

mother, who inspired his equity work through her encouraging words, "You can be anything you choose to be."

The Oregon Leadership Network, which is administered by Education Northwest,

is a partnership among state agencies, school districts, and nonprofit nongovernmental organizations that provides technical assistance, training, and research on leadership for equity.



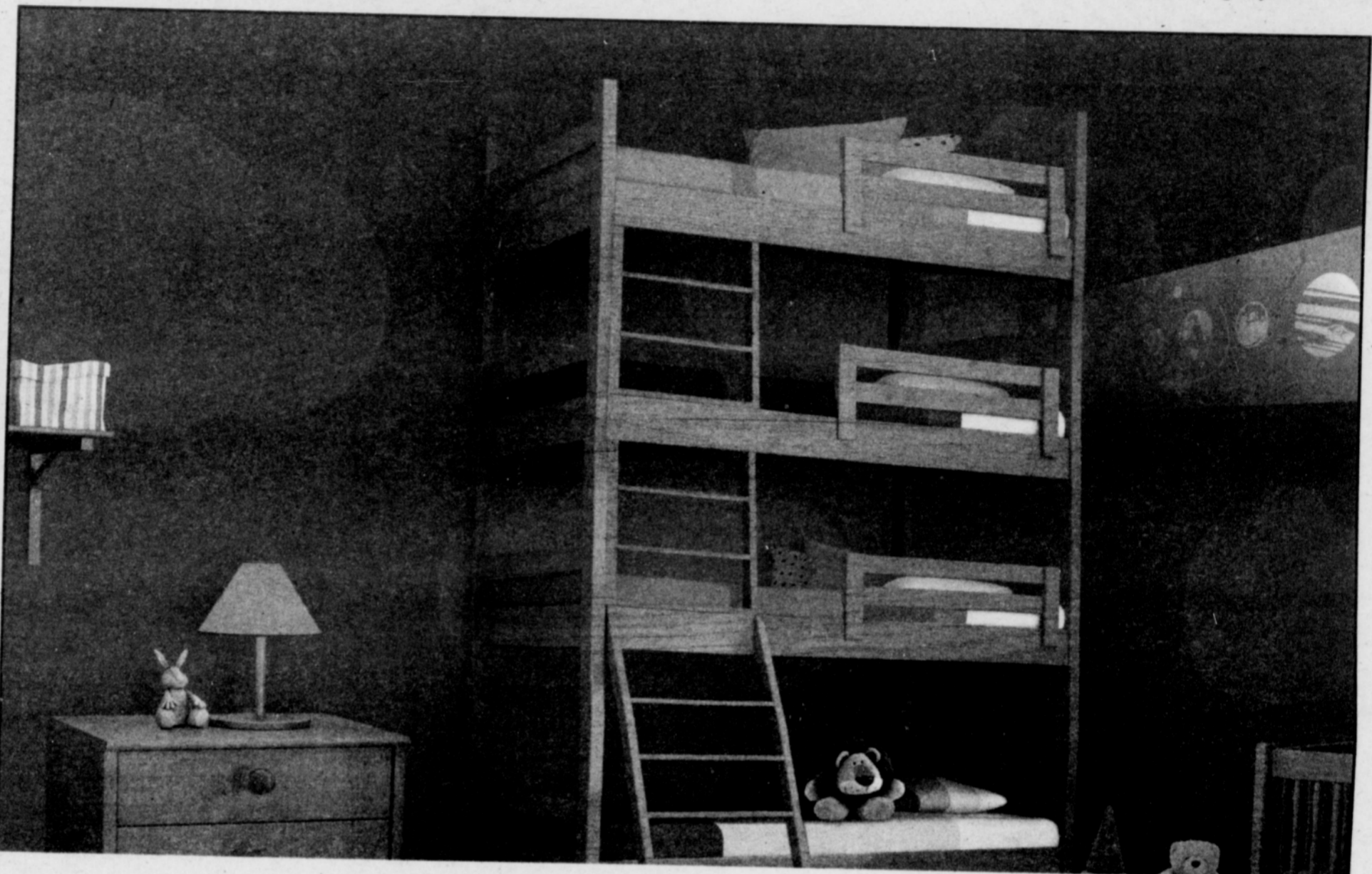
A long-time advocate for students of color, Portland activist and an equity officer for Portland Public Schools, Lorenzo Poe is honored for his leadership during an April 10 ceremony.

Lorenzo Poe, chief equity officer for Portland Public Schools, received the second annual Tom Ruhl Leadership for Equity Award on April 10 at the spring leadership institute held by the Oregon Leadership Network.

A graduate of Jefferson High School, Poe is a long-time advocate for students of color throughout Oregon. A former member of the Portland Public Schools Board of Education, he has also served on the boards of a number of community organizations, including the Urban League of Portland, the Black Parent Initiative, the Black United Fund, the Portland Schools Foundation, and the African American Alliance.

Poe is also the former Director of Multnomah County's Department of School and Community Partnerships, where he was an architect of the nationally renowned SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) Service System, which provides an integrated network of social and support services for youth, families, and community members throughout Multnomah County. Recently he received the Black Parent Initiative's first Dream Keeper Award for his advocacy work.

"Lorenzo's deep commitment and passion for improving education for all students is evident in all of his endeavors. He is respected and loved not just for his accomplishments, but for his commitment



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