

BACK TO SCHOOL

Opportunity Knocks Campaign

Outreach workers invite students back

Teachers, outreach workers, staff and community members are turning out Saturday Sept. 14 to knock on the doors of students who are not in school and invite them back to the classroom as part of Portland Public Schools third annual Reconnection Campaign, a key district initiative to get more students to graduation and beyond.

The outreach builds on efforts that began in fall 2011 as part of the PPS Reconnection Services, a team of outreach workers who contact students who have left school to get them reconnected.

This year, three students who got reconnected to school will be part of an advertising campaign along with their PPS outreach workers in an effort to inspire more youth to reconnect to their future. Look for their photograph on the sides of TriMet buses in September.

Sebatian Rojas, 16, reconnected at Rosemary Anderson High School, one of PPS' community based alternative schools. Patrick Stupfel, 21, enrolled at and graduated from Alliance High School, an in-district alternative program, and is now a student at Portland Community College and working part time for state Rep. Alissa Keny Guyer. And Kervencia Limage, 21, graduated from Portland Night High School, located at Benson High School and also an in-district program, in June. She plans to enroll at Portland State University.

The reconnection work is part of a spectrum of efforts to keep more students on track to graduate.

The efforts start with prevention. Such summer programs as Ninth Grade Counts helps incoming fresh-



families, 48 of whom requested and received follow up from an outreach worker. Thirty-seven students had either moved out of the district or they turned out to be enrolled in a GED program, online school or community-based alternative school. When no one was home, door knockers left information and outreach workers followed up.

Portland Public Schools encourages community members who know of a student who has left school without graduating to get in touch with PPS Reconnection Services at 503-916-3956 or reconnect@pps.net to find a school that fits and reinvest in success.

Portland Public Schools outreach workers Jeremy Kingsbury and Cheryl James with students (seated, from left) Patrick Stupfel, Kervencia Limage and Sebastian Rojas pose for a media photo. The adults and youth will featured on TriMet bus ads starting in September as part of a campaign to get more students to graduate.

men make a smoother transition into high school. A next step is identifying students who are falling behind and at risk of dropping out and intervening.

The Reconnection Services office was launched in 2011 to take the additional step of locating students who have dropped out, making a personal connection with them and working to get them back into a school that works for them.

Reconnection staff work all year, tackling the list of students who have left school - calling them and showing up at their homes. Each fall, they make a special push to knock on students' doors.

Last Sept. 15, staff and volunteers knocked on 121 doors and made face to face contact with 58

Best Buy Colleges Named

Oregon State University is among 41 "Best Buy Schools" named in the 2014 edition of "The Fiske Guide to Colleges."

This is the second time in two years that OSU has made the list. Only two other Pacific Northwest schools made the list, the University of Oregon and Evergreen College in Washington.

"At Oregon State, we recognize that the rising cost of higher education is a concern among students and their families," said OSU Vice President of University Relations and Marketing Steve Clark. "That's

why we are working hard to control costs, as well as increase scholarships, grants and tuition waivers for students.

"In fact, this past year, approximately 85 percent of all students attending Oregon State received some form of financial assistance," Clark said.

Schools included on the list are ranked as inexpensive or moderately priced, and have four- or five-star academic ratings.

Estimated tuition and fees for the 2013-14 school year for resident undergraduates at OSU is \$8,538.



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