Sports

His Mantra was Hope and Opportunity

Basketball court named to honor Harold Williams

by Olivia Olivia
The Portland Observer

The memory of a community leader is very alive today at the Portland Community College. The college's board of directors last November approved a resolution supported by PCC President Dr. Jeremy Brown along with Dr. Karin Edwards, the current president of the PCC Cascade campus, to rename the campus's basketball court in honor of former director Harold C. Williams Sr.

In the course of his more than four decades in public life in Portland, the late civic leader was a staunch advocate of extending hope and opportunity through education to the people of north and northeast Portland, especially his African-American community.

Having served on the PCC board for more than 20 years – from 1991 to 2012 – Williams was a champion of the transformative power of education, particularly for people from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds.

When PCC passed the first of two bond measures to expand college facilities in 1992, Williams led the effort to support growth on the Cascade Campus so that the traditionally underserved populations could have a strong, comprehen-

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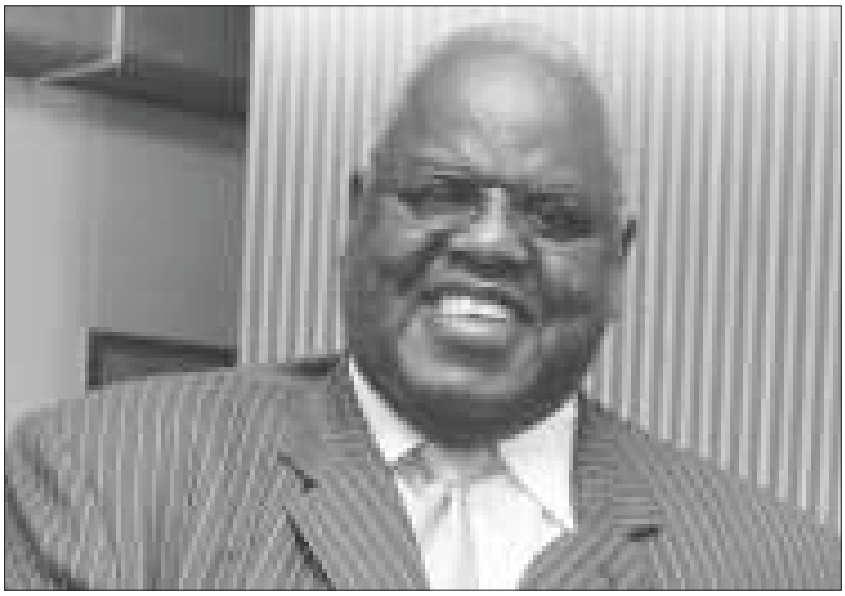

The basketball court at Portland Community College's Cascade Camus has been named in honor of the late Harold C. Williams Sr., a champion for advancing education to serve Portland's African-American community.

Neil Olshey

Blazers GM Contract Extended

The Portland Trail Blazers have signed General Manager Neil Olshey to a multi-year contract extension, team owner Paul Allen announced Thursday. Olshey has also been named President of Basketball Operations.

"Our team has made great strides under Neil's leadership, and I am excited to extend his contract," said Allen. "Neil has done an outstanding job as General Manager by quickly rebuilding our team into a playoff contender. The franchise is clearly on the upswing, and I hope to see further improvements in the years to come."

Olshey came to the Blazers from the Los Angeles Clippers in 2012. He finished third in NBA Executive of the Year voting after the Trail Blazers finished 54-28 last season – the largest improvement in franchise history and sixth-best record all-time.

The Trail Blazers won their first NBA Playoff series in 14 years, defeating the Houston Rockets in six games before bowing out to the eventual 2013-14 NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs in the Western Conference Semifinals.