



Superintendent Carole Smith (from left) Creston Principal Conrad Hurdle, and Creston PTA President Lisa Kensel.

Creston Named School of Excellence Principal inspired by recognition

Creston School and the southeast Portland school's Parent-Teacher Association have been honored for excellence by the national PTA for their achievement in building effective family-school partnerships.

Research shows that when families and schools work together, student achievement

increases, schools improve and communities grow stronger.

"I feel inspired by receiving The National PTA School of Excellence recognition. At Creston, with the support of our PTA president and parents, we are actively doing the work of family engagement each day," said Creston Principal Conrad Hurdle. "I am truly honored to lead a community where parents and educators form quality partnerships to promote a healthy community so students can thrive."

The National PTA School

of Excellence program was launched to help strengthen family-school partnerships across the country and make measurable progress in the areas of education, health and safety, and arts and cultural exploration.

"Working side by side with our principal, we have been able to strengthen the partnership between the school and families to take our work to the next level," said Creston School PTA President Lisa Kensel. "Our school and community have been enriched from this experience."

Race and Justice Forum Planned

The League of Women Voters of Portland and the Portland chapter of The Links, Inc., are sponsoring a panel to examine racism in Oregon's criminal justice system.

Evidence suggests that at each step in the system, from police stops to arrests, charges, convictions and incarcerations, people of color are more likely to have negative outcomes than similarly situated whites.

Moderated with Portland NAACP President JoAnn Hardesty, the panel will explore why people of color are over-represented in Oregon's



Joann Hardesty

criminal justice system, the impacts on our communities, some recent advances, and ideas for the next important steps. Speakers will include

David Rogers, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon; Nkenge Harmon Johnson, president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Portland; Joyce Harris of the Albina Ministerial Alliance Coalition for Justice and Police Reform; and Andy Ko, executive director of the Partnership for Safety and Justice.

The event will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Multnomah County Building Board Room, 501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., and is free and open to the public.

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