

# Bridging the Gap

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after the shootings of unarmed black teens like Trayvon Martin and Tamir Rice.

Officer Vince Elmore came up with the idea of setting up a meeting during a conversation with Portland Police Chief Larry O'Dea.

"We wanted to know how to improve relations between the police bureau and the black community," said Jefferson High School guidance counselor Donald Dixon. Dixon invited O'Dea and asked his members from the bureau to join Boys to Men for breakfast. Over 100 officers and the chief responded.

"I told the chief that the purpose is not to bash them today, or to point fingers at them or to blame them for what they do or don't do," said Dixon. "I told the chief that the purpose is to include them as men along side other men to share their life, experiences, and knowledge to our boys and to one another."

Mayor Charlie Hales also attended and shared his thoughts as well.

"To watch our police officers mentor students at the Donald Dixon Boys to Men Breakfast was amazing," he said. "For everyone working to build the relationship between police and the commu-

nity, and for everyone working for equity in our community: Pay attention to this. This was an empowering event."

The whole purpose of the Boys to Men program is for men to share their skills, experiences, talents, and wisdom with young men who are heading down a path that older community members have travelled.

"Though the men being older will probably have more knowledge and experience, they too can learn from the younger boys," added Dixon. This fit well with the goals of bringing the two communities – officers and black young men – together, so learn more about the world as the students enter adulthood.

Dixon explained that it was a unique experience and he hopes the students gain valuable insight, along with the officers, about the humanity of each other's groups. "It is no secret that there is a problem for the black male across America," said Dixon. "In light of the national attention toward the black male, especially black boys, we have an opportunity to address our black boys in the city of Portland with having a boys to men program and including our own Police Bureau."



Bill Patterson, who coached two adult national championship amateur teams, is the new women's soccer coach at Portland Community College.

## Soccer Returns to PCC

### Teams suit up for men and women

Walter Arevalo is the center of attention as soccer practice gets underway.

Arevalo welcomes players to the artificial turf field next to Portland Community College's Rock Creek Campus, handing each their blue-and-white jerseys, white shorts and multi-band long socks with impressive skill and swiftness. It's made a bit harder amid the playful shouting and general craziness that comes with corraling 25 college students for a team photo.

"It's part of the administration skills," he said with a shrug and smile.

It's not any team photo day. The day signifies the reboot of PCC's new intercollegiate men and women's soccer teams, both competing in the Northwest Athletic Conference this fall.

The college announced this past spring that it was bringing back

soccer and held a series of tryouts in June. Arevalo was named the first men's coach while respected former Astoria High School boys coach Bill Patterson was picked to lead the women.

PCC briefly sported intercollegiate teams in the early 1990s with the men placing runner-up in 1994. From the late 1960s until the early 1980s the PCC club soccer team was a force among similar teams throughout the Northwest. The Panthers captured state titles in 1971, and 1977-81 and in 1982 beat Oregon State University 2-1 in the title club game, their last trophy.

Arevalo said he's excited by the potential of his Panthers, which has players from Paraguay, Congo, Hillsboro, Beaverton, Forest Grove, Milwaukie and others.

"I'm a competitor and a competitive coach so I don't want to say right now that we'll get to the finals, but it's pretty much the feeling of the players," he said. "I want to be in the finals and I believe we have a chance because we have good players."

Patterson, who has coached soccer for 20 years and is a philo-

sophy instructor at the Rock Creek Campus, got intrigued by the sport because of his kids, who were top high school players in the 1990s. As they progressed through the ranks, he would watch the coaches and became interested in their craft.

Eventually he got licensed to coach soccer and was hired to be the head coach of the Astoria High School boys soccer team. Patterson, who coached two adult national championship amateur teams, led Astoria to six league titles and to the state playoffs every year during his 10 years there.

At PCC, Patterson hopes to build around talented core players with a sharp, crisp passing and possession style.

"I'm really encouraged by the season," Patterson said. "We have a group of committed players who want to get better and play as a team. They put their uniforms on with great pride. That's a great thing - to give these players who may not have the opportunity to play intercollegiate sports a chance to play. They get to represent their community, their school and themselves."

AN EVENING WITH

### Dr. Jervette Ward



Author of *Real Sister Stereotypes, Respectability, and Black Women in Reality TV*

"Real Sister makes a significant contribution to existing scholarship by establishing links between depictions of Black women in television and a longer-running history of representations of Black women in literate and popular tropes." —Leigh H. Edwards, author of *The Triumph of Reality TV: The Revolution in American Television*

Portland Community College Cascade Campus

705 North Killingsworth, Portland, Oregon 97217 MAHB Auditorium

Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> / 6:00-7:30 p.m. MAHB

Sponsors: MAC (Multicultural Awareness Council) Fund  
Cascade Campus Diversity Council



## Money Moved for Affordable Housing

More money will be directed to affordable housing projects from Portland's Urban Renewal Districts over the next five years under a proposal going to the Portland City Council.

As part of a new initiative announced by Mayor Charlie Hales in response to a housing emergency, nearly \$67 million will be added to the \$202 million the city already expects to receive for housing projects over the period.

The property taxes set aside for affordable housing in the city's urban renewal districts will grow to 45 percent of the total revenue received, up from the current 30 percent, just short of the 50 percent set aside housing advocates proposed when the housing crisis was declared earlier this month.

"We have scrubbed each Urban Renewal Area in detail, looking at both opportunities and costs, in an effort to direct money toward affordable hous-

ing while maintaining projects to enhance jobs, livability and equity," Hales said.

Housing Commissioner Dan Saltzman said, "Increasing the amount of money we spend in urban renewal areas for housing is a community-led solution which I am pleased to join the Mayor and Commissioner Fish to support."

Hales said north and northeast Portland will see the largest increase in affordable housing resources.