

# Honored at the White House

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Caldera was chosen from a pool of more than 285 nominations and 50 finalists from 50 states for improving literacy, language abilities, communication, performance skills, and cultural awareness. It is the first nonprofit in Oregon to receive this prestigious award.

“As I’ve said many times before, arts education is not a luxury, it is a necessity,” said Mrs. Obama. “It’s how we get kids excited about getting up and going to school in the morning. It’s how we get them to take ownership of their future. And that’s why these programs are so important.”

Caldera mentors youth with seven years of continuous, year-round arts and environmental programming. Since its founding in 1996, the program has engaged approximately 1,900 young people—from both urban and rural areas—who come to the program with myriad strengths but limited opportunities.

Caldera’s mentors and teaching artists help the youth find their own voices, self-confidence and creativity, while helping them develop problem-solving strategies, work skills, and ways to exercise their creativity in all aspects of their lives. As a result, Caldera youth transform their own lives and often have a positive effect on their families and broader communities.

The powerful impact of the program is also evident in school success rates. In 2014, 100 percent of Caldera’s eighth graders transitioned successfully to ninth grade, and 90 percent of Caldera’s twelfth graders graduated from high school.

“The chance to represent my peers in accepting this award from the First Lady of the United States in the White House was an experience I’ll never forget,” said Caldera student Alena Nore. “My experience with Caldera has been life-changing. It’s exciting to see that programs like this are recog-

nized and valued, because I know there are many more young people who need the kind of mentoring I benefitted from.”

In addition to the national recognition bestowed by the prestigious award, Caldera will also receive \$10,000 to support its programming and build the long-term sustainability of the organization.

“This award inspires all of us at Caldera—youth, staff, board, volunteers, supporters—to reach for new heights in our work. We are in this work for the long term, and we are excited to learn about and from the awardees,” said Caldera Executive Director Tricia Snell, who accompanied Alena Nore to the White House. “We also hope that the award will shine a light on the amazing thing young people can achieve through the arts, through humanities, through caring adult mentoring, and through immersion in nature. Providing this to every child is an investment not only in those individual young people, but in our entire society.”

# Black United Fund College Fair

The Black United Fund is encouraging local students and parents to attend their free 2015 College Fair, hosted at Concordia University in northeast Portland, on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon.

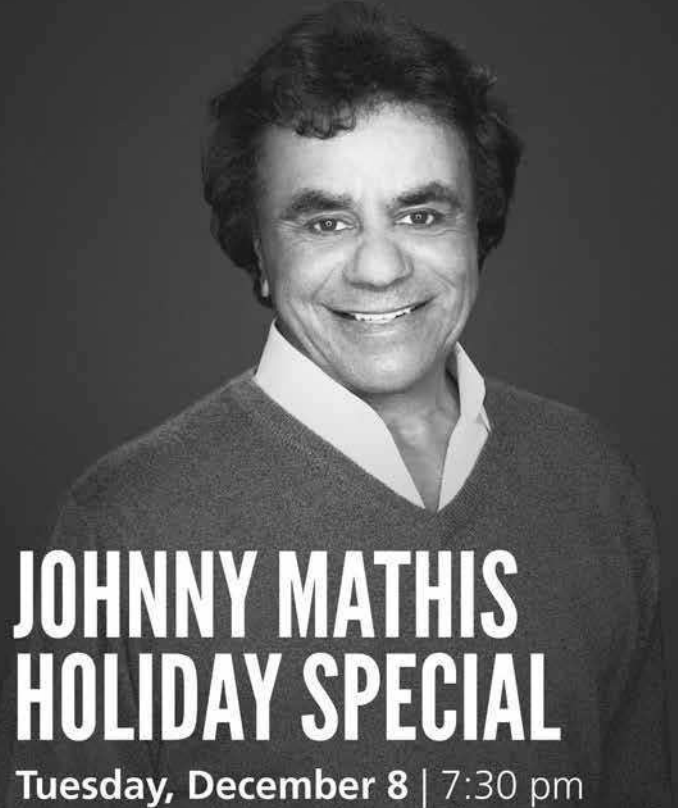
Many of the colleges and universities from Oregon and southwest Washington will be represented, along with alumni from historically black colleges and universities. There will be infor-

mation sessions for students interested in scholarships regardless of their socioeconomic status.

A Scholarship Writing course on how to create an award-winning essay will follow the college fair. This workshop will take place from 12:30 to 4 p.m. and only cost \$10, which covers the cost of workshop materials and lunch. To register for the workshop, visit [bit.ly/2015ScholarshipWritingWorkshop](http://bit.ly/2015ScholarshipWritingWorkshop).

Students and parents can register for the college fair online at [bit.ly/2015BUFCollegeFair](http://bit.ly/2015BUFCollegeFair) or by visiting [bufor.org](http://bufor.org).

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