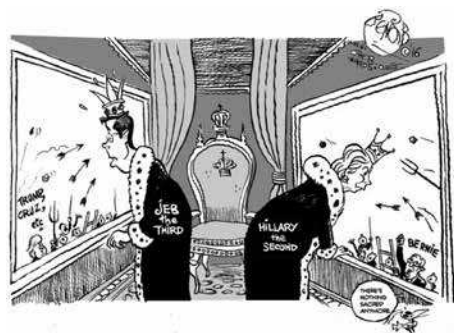


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# Fred Meyer

What's on your list today?®

# LOCAL NEWS



State Rep. Lew Frederick of northeast Portland promotes education in the trades and breaking a cycle of poverty in the African American community during a discussion with a group of industry leaders at Portland Community College's Swan Island Trades Center.

## Building a Workforce

### Trades Center seen as anti-poverty solution

Workforce needs in the manufacturing sector and the opportunity to be lifted out of poverty with family-wage jobs was front and center during a roundtable discussion at Portland Community College's Swan Island Trades Center.

The industry roundtable last week at the north Portland campus featured Sylvia Kelley, PCC interim college president, State

Rep. Lew Frederick, and the chief operating officers from several area employers, including Curtis Robinhold of the Port of Portland, Jack Isselmann of the Greenbrier Companies, and Roger Hinshaw of Bank of America.

"We would like to hear about the type of training your businesses need," Kelley said.

Robinhold discussed how the Port of Portland is preparing for the future through growth. He said Portland's working harbor has more than 60,000 jobs, 27,000 of which are with the Port, and pay 10-15 percent better than jobs around the metro area.

"It's a really complex environment," he said. "There are a lot of jobs connected one way or another and are not necessarily all in the harbor. The scale of the environment is often lost on a lot of people."

Rep. Frederick said PCC's trades program and the family-wage jobs in the area help to reduce poverty rates.

Growing up, Frederick said he remembered folks talking about how young African-American men often would be discouraged to apply for manufacturing work

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## Whiteness History Month Defended

### Curriculum aims to examine, dismantle racism

BY ALEX WISE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A new way of examining and fighting racism is coming to Portland Community College this April. Unlike Black History Month in February or Women's History Month in March, the first

Whiteness History Month is being planned not to celebrate its topic but to be critical of it.

The college's campuses will host lectures, films, forums and discussions to explore how whiteness is given meaning by social and political systems related to identity, beliefs, cultural norms, and privileges. Organizers have goals of working to change the campus climate to help students stay in school and succeed, to promote partnerships with the

community, and to examine and reflect on academic skills, personal beliefs, and their impact on others. The goal is to apply racially conscious systems of analysis to examine and dismantle systems of inequality.

Organizers have received proposals for, among other things, a film that will document how different students define whiteness, a workshop documenting how the

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