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# The Portland Observer 46

'City of Roses'



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Established in 1970  
Committed to Cultural Diversity

46 years of  
community service



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Carolyn Leonard, an inspiring school administrator, educator and community activist, is honored for a lifetime of work to promote peace and equality, taking the torch of the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run international relay as it moves on a 10,000 mile journey through Portland on its way to Canada and other destinations.

## Spreading Cultural Harmony

### Local leader promotes peace and tolerance

BY CERVANTE POPE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Over the course of her career, Carolyn Leonard has worked to spread cultural harmony and tolerance at home and around the world, most recently making stops in Tanzania, India, Ethiopia, the Dominican Republic and Mexico to promote peace.

The inspiring leader and longtime Portland Public Schools administrator, educator and community activist, joins peacemakers Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Pope Frances and many others in receiving the international Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Award.

The honor was bestowed on Leonard when the organization's Peace Run torch relay made its stop in Portland June 18 on a journey across eight different countries and over 10,000 miles to recognize individuals on an international level that have made waves in the ways of peace and equality, to which Leonard has dedicated

much of her life to.

"I just was at the right place at the right time," Leonard says of her worldly, altruistic opportunities. "It's been amazing and it's been a gift from God, because I certainly didn't have anything to do with it. I just tried to remain true to what I believe."

The native Oregonian comes from a black and American Indian background, which she says aided in her ability to look past skin color as a barrier of acceptance, despite the state's former and present racial gap.

"I grew up in an environment where you try not to draw differences between

you and other people," Leonard says. "Any day you have to be able to release what you have learned. You have to be prepared to let go and embrace truth. That's what I've spent my time doing, retelling the truth for what it is."

Holding various positions with Portland Public Schools over the last 44 years, Leonard has used her background in multicultural education to cultivate minds in ways outside the classroom, though she's also taught at nearly every educational level in over 20 public and private schools.

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