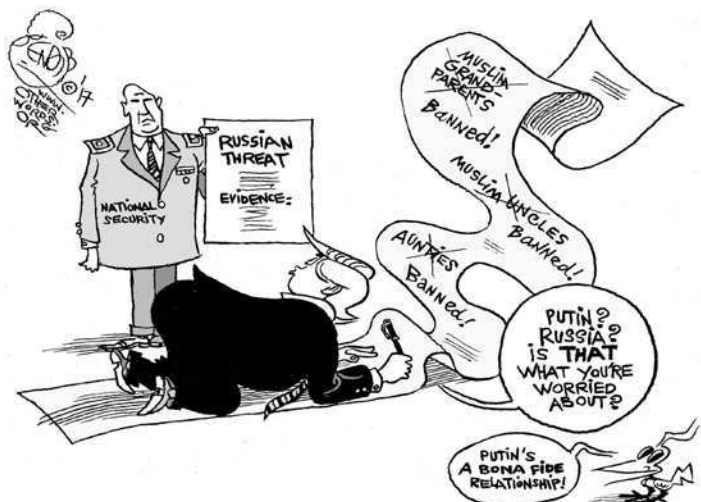


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Hundreds of young people gather to kick off the SummerWorks internship program operated through Multnomah County and the city of Portland. The program primarily serves young people who are low income or from diverse communities.

Summer Jobs for Youth

Program is more than just a paycheck

A record number of local youth will be gaining valuable work experience through SummerWorks. The summer jobs program operated by the city of Portland and Multnomah County is expected to accommodate as many as 1,150 young people from across the Portland metro region.

The program is placing 16-to-24-year-old participants in work opportunities at roughly 200 job sites. The participating employers represent the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

Young people who take part in the program work in paid 180-hour internships, and receive on-the-job training and mentoring. The program aims to provide local young people with the opportunities necessary to gain valuable real-world work experiences. SummerWorks is specifically targeted at low-income and minority youth.

Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith and Mayor Ted Wheeler attended the annual welcoming ceremony on June 30 where hundreds of the young participants had the opportunity to network with eligible employers and sign up for bank accounts.

"I'm proud to kick off another season of SummerWorks, an amazing program that gives

young people real-life experience in the workforce with access to mentoring that will help prepare them for the high-skill jobs we know are coming to our region," said Wheeler.

The event was keynoted by Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Adrienne Nelson, the second black female judge in Oregon's history and a community leader known for speaking about the values of diversity, education, professional development and equity.

SummerWorks, a private-public partnership supported by a wide coalition of local governmental entities was started in 2009, and has placed 4,816 youth in summer jobs since then.

Legislative Highs and Lows

Session ends with progressive wins, defeats

BY ZACHARY SENN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Oregon Legislature adjourned its current session on Friday, hailing several progressive victories. Tenant advocates and other activist groups, however, are worried that some of the state's most pressing problems were not addressed.

Among initiatives passed by

the Democrat-controlled House and Senate being hailed as the session's most notable accomplishments were protections for women's healthcare, a bill that allows undocumented children to receive insurance coverage under the Oregon Health Plan and a law aimed at curbing police profiling.

House Bill 3391, which will take effect as soon as it receives Gov. Kate Brown's expected signature, will require a substantial amount of women's healthcare initiatives to be provided by private insurers. The measure is known as the Reproductive Health Eq-

uity Act, and will require private insurers to provide treatment and diagnosis of sexually transmitted diseases, abortion services, and pre- and post-partum pregnancy care at no out-of-pocket cost. It also requires insurers to provide services to all women in the state, regardless of their immigration status.

The Cover All Kids Act, Senate Bill 558, also extends healthcare to undocumented children in Oregon.

In a statement, Imelda Dacon-
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