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Portland Community College at the Cascade Campus in north Portland honors the late Evelyn "Evie" Crowell with the opening of the Evelyn Crowell Center for African American Community History.

Crowell Center Opens

PCC installs monument to local black history

"Education is often seen as a pathway out of poverty," reads the opening line on one of the displays in the new Evelyn Crowell Center for African American Community History.

Perhaps no one else embodied this notion more than the late Evelyn "Evie" Crowell, the namesake and inspiration behind the new historical exhibit, which was installed this week in the library at Portland Community College's Cascade Campus.

The Evelyn Crowell Center for African American Community History is a monument to both Crowell's extraordinary life

and to the generations of African Americans who breathed life, culture, and resiliency into the Albina Neighborhood of north and northeast Portland.

An opening ceremony is scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday, June 3, in the PCC Cascade Library.

"Evie was someone who truly lived what she preached," said Karin Edwards, president of the Cascade Campus. "She believed in education as the means for people to live the life they want, and she put her own time and her own hard-earned money to work in service of this ideal and of her community."

The center is comprised of a series of panels depicting the many decades of African American life in inner north and northeast Portland, tracing the history of the Albina district from the Vanport flood of 1948 through the Civil

Rights Era to the present day and beyond. It was curated by James Harrison, a local historian and former instructor at the campus.

Evie Crowell was not just a part of that history, but a leader and pioneer in her community. After finishing high school at age 16 in 1959, she went on to be part of the first four-year graduating class of Portland State University. Next, she earned her master's degree in library science from the University of Washington, and followed that by working at the library at Jefferson High School and soon becoming the first black librarian at Linfield College in McMinnville and, later, the first at PSU.

Crowell recorded a number of other "firsts" in her illustrious life, including becoming the first

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Oregon Picks Up Lunch Tabs

Oregon lawmakers have approved the largest statewide expansion of the federal free lunch program, ensuring all students living up to three times above the poverty line will have access to free meals.

It's the first time a state has offered to completely take on school meal costs, which can often run tens of thousands of dollars for individual school districts. The move is expected to provide hundreds of thousands of students with free breakfast and lunch.

The meals expansion is tucked away in tax package for schools, a sweeping \$1 billion annual investment explicitly dedicated to boosting student performance. The program, which will cost the



Oregon is expanding its school lunch program.

state \$40 million a year, will be paid for through a new half a percent tax on business.

Gov. Kate Brown signed the

school funding tax package, but it's likely to be referred to the voters to decide in 2020, thanks to Oregon's robust referendum process.