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LOCAL NEWS

Finalists for PCC President



Adrienne Bennings (from left), Naydeen Gonzalez-de Jesus, Shouan Pan and Craig Herndon are under consideration to become the next president of Portland Community College.

College hosts candidates with open forums

Portland Community College's presidential search effort has produced a pool of four finalists.

The candidates are Adrienne Bennings, Naydeen Gonzalez-De Jesus, Craig Herndon and Shouan Pan, college officials announced Monday. Each were scheduled to participate this week in open forums as part of their visits to the college district.

The next president will be PCC's eighth since the college was founded in 1961, and will be replace Mark Mitsui, who is retiring at the end of this academic year, in June.

Gonzalez-De Jesus is the executive vice president of student success at Milwaukee Area Technical College in Wisconsin where she is credited with initiatives to improve student support and the college's commitment to a guided pathways framework, which brings together academics and student services.

Herndon has more than 20 years of professional experience in higher education, with roles in student support, academic affairs, and extensive community college leadership for workforce development, advocacy and administration. Since 2018, he has served as the senior vice chancellor for administration, finance and technology for the Virginia Community College system.

Bennings is the president of

Kellogg Community College, one of 28 community colleges in the state of Michigan. In this capacity, she oversees a multi-campus institution within a three-county service area. Before joining KCC, Bennings was the vice president of administration and finance and chief financial officer at Clovis Community College in New Mexico.

Pan as served as chancellor of Seattle Colleges since 2016 and has 30 years of experience promoting student, institutional and community success. Born and raised in mainland China, Pan immigrated to the United States in 1985. He has a doctorate in philosophy in higher education; a master's degree in education in college student personnel; and a bachelor's degree in English.

Eviction Fears Grow

As housing relief dries up, crisis moves to a new stage

BY BEVERLY CORBELL
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

There are still some options to help renters trying to avoid eviction during the current housing crisis even though the state agency managing an emergency rental assistance fund shut down all applications on Monday.

The Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program (OERAP) was set to close even earlier, but got a one week extension to March 21 thanks to an additional \$16 million in federal funds. The monies allowed an additional 2,200 Oregonians to stay in their homes for now. While more funds are sought, getting additional resources remains doubtful.

Jill Smith, interim director of the housing stabilization for Oregon Housing and Community services, was grateful for the ex-



Becky Straus of the Eviction Defense Project (left) and Cyd Maurer, an eviction defense attorney, represent the Oregon Law Center where free legal help is offered to low income Oregonians facing the loss of housing from eviction.

tension, but said more funds are still needed.

"Our message to the U.S. Treasury remains loud and clear," she said. "If other states have money they can't use — send those dollars to Oregon."

The Oregon Law Center is partnering with the city to provide free legal help to those facing eviction, according to Becky Straus, the managing attorney for the center's Eviction Defense Project.

"We have contracted with the city to help them implement their eviction defense program," Straus said. "What's new is that since

early 2021 we have been taking more eviction cases in a dedicated special project to be able to more meet the needs of low income tenants facing eviction."

Portland City Council in August authorized the Portland Housing Bureau to contract with the Oregon Law Center, and the push began in July when more staff was hired, Straus said.

Any low-income renters who have received a termination notice, a proposed termination of

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