

Recipients of Alumni Excellence Award

Three alumni honored for professional achievement

Western Oregon University announced the recipients of the prestigious Outstanding Alumni Awards for 2023. These awards recognize alumni who have made significant contributions to their professions, communities, and to the university itself.

Gustavo Balderas, Ph.D. '90 is receiving the 2023 Alumni Award for Professional Achievement. Balderas has been an educator for 34 years and a school superintendent for 13 of those years in three states. He has been named National Superintendent of the Year by the National Superintendent Association, the National Bilingual Association, and Oregon Superintendent of the Year. Balderas is also the President of the National Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents as well as president-elect of The National School Superintendents Association.

Balderas shares that he is most proud of the work done during



Top left: Dr. Gustavo Balderas, Ph.D., bottom left: Mark Zook, right: Katherine Cook

his time as a school superintendent, specifically in the areas of promoting equity and disrupting systems to create new ones that create greater access and opportunity for all students. "Dr. Balderas has spent his career dedicated to educating our youth, promoting equity and inclusion, and creating systems that provide greater access and opportunity for all students," said Doug Ladd, president of Western's Alumni Board of Directors. "His professional achievements have made a large impact in

the school districts he has served, and we look forward to seeing more youth benefit from his work in the educational system."

Katherine Cook '02 is receiving the Alumni Award of Excellence. Cook is proud of her career path, emphasizing that she didn't take shortcuts and faced many challenges with faith and hope. She started out as a solo journalist in Southern Oregon, gradually progressing to becoming a weekend anchor and reporter in Medford. Cook landed her dream job

at KGW in Portland, where she's worked for 16 years, and impacting lives through journalism. Cook has been the recipient of numerous awards. Cook holds a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Communication from Western Oregon University and is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

"Katherine exemplifies everything we hope our alumni can achieve. She is an award-winning journalist and engaged in her community. Through her journalism she has inspired, given hope, made a difference in the lives of others, and brought joy to her community," said Doug Ladd. "What impressed the selection committee most however was her willingness to give back to Western with her time and talents. She has done great things in her career and we are excited to see what her future holds as well as continuing her relationship with Western."

Mark Zook '89 is receiving the Service to Community Award. Zook is currently the President & Chief Executive Officer, Chief Credit Officer of Marion & Polk Schools Maps Credit Union, which is a 1.3 billion dollar community-chartered credit union serving 75,000 members living or working in eight counties in the

Willamette Valley. Zook is most proud of the organization he's created at Maps. They employ approximately 325 people and serve close to 80,000 members in the mid-Willamette Valley. Maps is recognized by the industry for its work in creating a stronger credit union system. Community service is a significant aspect of Zook's life, with a notable highlight being the co-founder of the World Ocean School in Boston, where he served as director for 16 years. "Mark is a leader within the financial industry and is committed to serving his community, including his time as a volunteer board member at Western," said Doug Ladd. "Mark has continued to inspire innovation within his industry and makes community service a priority in his career. We know that Mark's dedication to community service will continue to make a difference in many lives for years to come."

Western Oregon University takes great pride in the accomplishments of its graduates, and these awards are a testament to the enduring impact of an education from Western. The university extends its heartfelt congratulations to these award recipients for their remarkable achievements and contributions to their respective fields and communities.

Multnomah County Library Operating at UO Portland



U of O Portland

Temporary New Location Offers Essential Library Services

As of October 9, Multnomah County Library patrons can check out and return books, use computers and wi-fi and get personalized help at a new temporary library location on the University of Oregon campus in NE Portland. The new service will help offset a series of construction-related closures to build, expand and renovate libraries as part of a 2020 voter-approved bond measure.

Located in room 120 of the Library and Learning Center at 2800 NE Liberty St. in Portland, the temporary Multnomah County Library at University of Oregon Portland location offers holds pick up, a 24/7 book return, computer stations, wi-fi and free printing, faxing and scanning. The library houses a small collection of books in English and Spanish for adults and children, including items from the Black Resources Collection and Lucky Day items and DVDs. Library staff will offer assistance in English and Spanish Monday-Saturday weekly 1-6 pm.

Multnomah County Library is expanding and modernizing

library spaces, which requires simultaneous closures, including Albina, Gregory Heights and North Portland libraries in the surrounding area. The new location is intended to supplement closed locations and is expected to operate through the summer of 2024 at least before library staff transition back to currently closed locations.

"Multnomah County Library is undergoing a profound transformation and we are working to be nimble in serving the community during this period of disruption, including this temporary space," said Vailey Oehlke, Director of Libraries. "Thanks to an incredible spirit of partnership from the University of Oregon, we're able to offer more library materials and services to the community where they're needed."

"UO Portland Library is thrilled to begin this unique partnership that will jointly serve UO Portland and neighboring communities. Our academic library includes a small children's library with a family study space that will support our student parents and is also open to the community," said Library Manager Michael Brown.

J&L BarBQ And More

Our Food Cart is a Soul Food cart that has Rib Dinners, Chicken Dinners, Fish Dinners, Pull Pork, Cheeseburger Meat, Specials Wednesday and Saturday OXTAILS PLATES. Meals are \$12.00-\$18.00 per plate.

Sides: Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Mac N Cheese, Collard Greens and Cornbread.

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