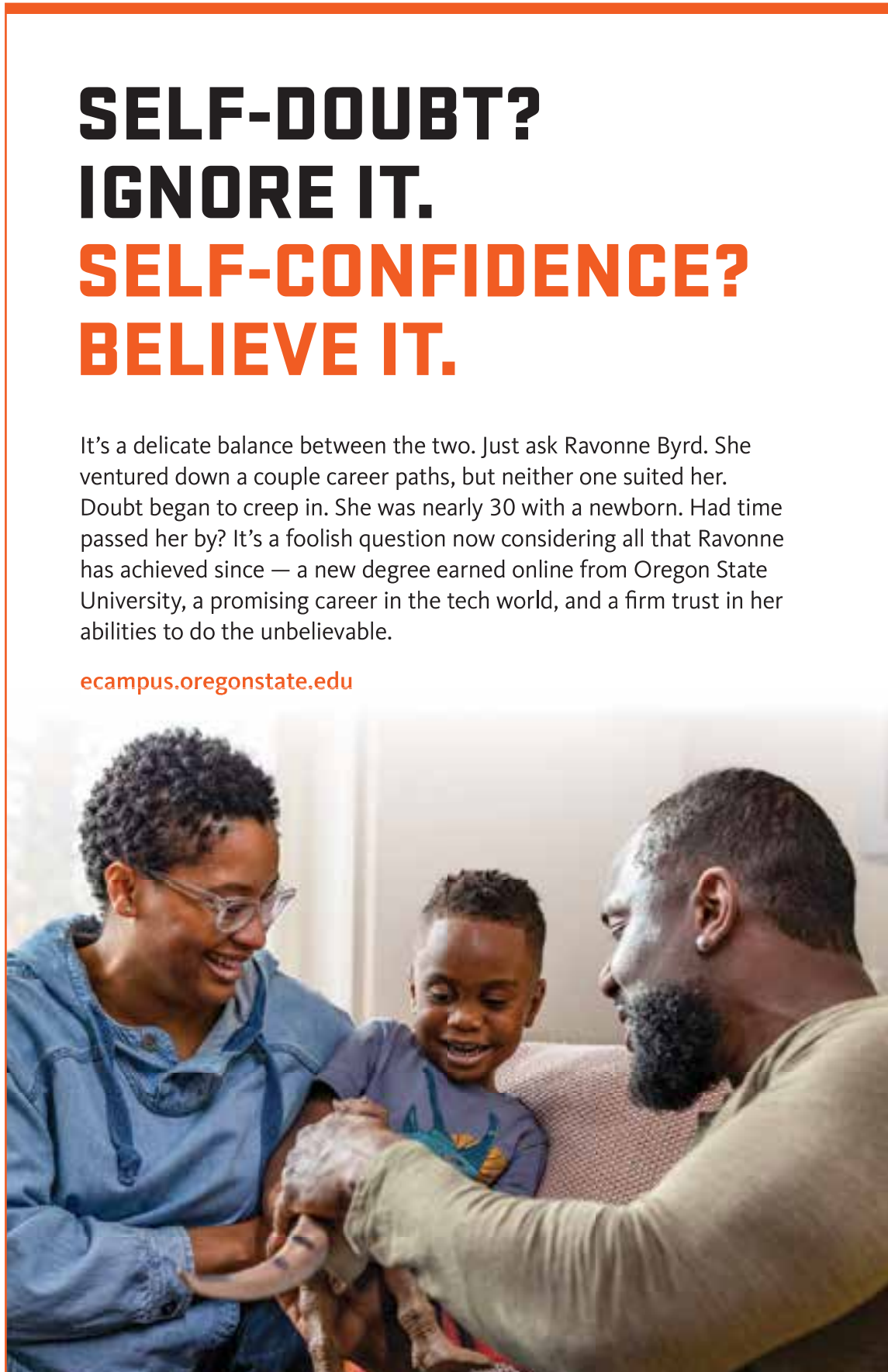


Honorees' Service Embodies the Values of Dr. King



Honorees Ron Herndon, Martina Murray and David Fikstad Photos from Oregon Encyclopedia and Larry Bartasavich Photography



**SELF-DOUBT?
IGNORE IT.
SELF-CONFIDENCE?
BELIEVE IT.**

It's a delicate balance between the two. Just ask Ravonne Byrd. She ventured down a couple career paths, but neither one suited her. Doubt began to creep in. She was nearly 30 with a newborn. Had time passed her by? It's a foolish question now considering all that Ravonne has achieved since — a new degree earned online from Oregon State University, a promising career in the tech world, and a firm trust in her abilities to do the unbelievable.

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St. Andrew Parish set to present annual awards

St. Andrew Catholic Church will present its annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards at Mass on Sunday, January 14 beginning at 9:30 am at St. Andrew Catholic parish. These awards are given to people whose service embodies the values of Dr. King, who used nonviolence, civil disobedience, and Christian teaching to advance the cause of civil rights in America.

Parishioners are honored for their works with the poor, the powerless, and the oppressed, works often accomplished with great devotion and little fanfare. Likewise, over the years, community service awards have gone to Jobs with Justice, Northwest Pilot Project, St. Andrew Legal Clinic and Veterans for Peace, along with many others working to bring justice and hope to our world.

This year, the parish recognizes the 54-year career of activist Ron Herndon who, upon graduating Reed College in 1970, co-founded the Black Education Center, a primary school in NE Portland. Today, Herndon serves as Director of Albina Head Start, a position he first assumed in 1975. In the meantime, he has struggled for

equality and justice in many roles and situations, most often challenging racist power structures that few others tackle with such persistence and success.

On Sunday, we are also honoring two parishioners. Panama-born Martina Murray who acts as liaison and scheduler for the Promotores de Salud program that links our Hispanic parishioners with health care, including vision and dentistry. We will hear about her deep commitment to that work.

The second award goes to David Fikstad, who co-manages the parish's Emergency Services in its mission to help neighborhood people with food, shelter and utility support. One nominator said of Fikstad: "Clients ask for him by name because they remember that time when he went out of his way to get them rental assistance, deliver groceries, get work boots, or otherwise just listen to them. He is the best possible example of the works of mercy that all of us are called to do in the world."

Every year, this mass provides us with indelible stories of tireless servants of the poor and oppressed. Since 2002, at the Sunday closest to the national holiday celebrating Dr. King, these awards reassert the parish's sharing in what he called, in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech, his "audacious faith in the future of mankind."

Tripods allowed. Reception and further photo opportunities follow the mass. All are welcome.



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