



THE SKANNER™

CHALLENGING PEOPLE TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE NOW



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Found! Jobs for Women

Q&A with Connie Ashbrook of Oregon Tradeswomen

A national study issued last week singled out Oregon Tradeswoman as one of the most effective job equity institutions in the country for work training in the transportation industry.

The Skanner News: Talk about the report that came out recently—what did it say?

Connie Ashbrook: The report is talking about the importance of making training work so that people of color and women have access to the high-wage and high-skilled trades careers that are available in the transportation industry.

It's looking at roads, bridges, light-rail, and other transportation infrastructure.

TSN: I remember a few years ago when President Obama announced the stimulus funding for jobs programs, that Oregon Tradeswomen actually received significant funding for jobs training.

Ashbrook: Because of stimulus dollars we were able to educate over 130 women a year for the past two years about careers in the blue collar fields. For free.

So also women last year, 79 of them got jobs in the trades, and their average wage is \$13.89 an hour, and that's just a starting wage.

We're continuing to work with all of them to move them into employment somewhere between 67 and 70 percent of our graduates are becoming employed in the trades so we're very pleased with that.

For instance 27 women so far have

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OCCUPY PORTLAND



PHOTO BY HELEN SIVAS

Protests against wealth inequality have spread across the country with Portland and Seattle joining the national campaign, Occupy Wall Street

Cornel West Says: Occupy Your Hood

New Yorker Malik Rahsaan was dismayed that few Blacks and Latinos were represented at the Occupy Wall Street Protests.

The protests aim to highlight the growth of wealth and income inequality in the United States. They started in New York with the Occupy Wall Street movement and have now spread to at least 70 cities in the Unites States and others across the world.

supports the protesters. "The hood ought to be the first community to be here because we have been suffering than any other community with the exception of our indigenous brothers and sisters on reservations," West said.

"In terms of education, housing, not enough jobs with a living wage, and the refusal of people to really come to terms with the suffering of the children. We have 42 percent of Black children 42 percent of Brown children and 42 percent of Red children living in poverty. The richest nation in the history of the world:

That's a moral disgrace." Also on board the Occupy the Hood movement are the Rev. Al Sharpton, who spoke to the crowd in New York Monday, California Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and Georgia's Rep. John Lewis.

The Occupy Wall Street movement has spread to cities all over the country, and beyond. In Oregon, Monday Oct. 10, protesters marched and rallied at the Oregon capitol in Salem. Organizers plan to camp indefinitely at Salem's Wilson Park.

In Portland, the Occupy Portland demonstrators have

been camping in Chapman Square, since the march and rally Thursday Oct. 6. Occupy Portland came together in support of the New York protesters 'Occupy Wall Street'. Both in the United States and across the world protesters are turning out to protest rising inequalities and policies that they say favor corporations and the wealthy.

The diverse and good-

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Local Educator Tackles Achievement Gap

Augusta Mann headlines Teaching with Purpose conference

By Bruce Poinsette For The Skanner News

Karanja Crews wants to tackle the achievement gap in Portland Public Schools. The Vernon School teacher has organized the Teaching With Purpose Conference 10 Year Anniversary to help provide tools for educators and community members to address this problem.

Crews has planned the one day seminar for the state in service day on Friday, October 14. It will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will include workshops and a screening of .

Crews organized the first Teaching With Purpose Conference ten years ago as a student at Portland State University.

At the time, community activist Ron Herndon and the Education Crisis Team

were protesting PPS over the achievement gap between middle class whites and minority and low-income students.

Crews brought in over 150 educators and national consultants to the event, including keynote speaker Bob Moses and Augusta Mann, who is returning as a presenter this year.

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