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'SUPER' DAVE RETIRES



Seattle Parks and Recreation Deputy Superintendent Christopher Williams gives "Super" Dave Gilbertson a hug when arrives at his retirement party on Friday January 29th at Meadowbrook Community Center. Mr. Gilbertson worked for over 30 years for the department and close to 100 people came to his retirement party to celebrate his service to the community.

Jefferson and Roosevelt Make Highest Leaps School's across Oregon see gains across the board in graduation rates

By **Donovan M. Smith**
Of The Skanner

New numbers released by the Oregon Department of Education show that two of the state's most historically underserved schools made the two greatest leaps in graduation rates.

Jefferson and Roosevelt High Schools came in at first and second, respectively, for best turnarounds in the 2014-2015 school year, with Jefferson achieving a 25 percent increase from the year previous, graduating 81 percent of its seniors on time, and

Roosevelt making a 9 percent bump, sending 67 percent of its seniors across the stage.

Leaders at Jefferson are crediting much of their success to an ongoing partnership with Self Enhancement, Inc. that targets increasing the success of at-risk students, through its Whole School Model.

"We believe education starts at home, well before you get into a classroom," Tony Hopson Sr., president and CEO of Self Enhancement, Inc., told *The Skanner* before adding that Self Enhancement has offered the programming

and had extended funding this year. "We can bridge [both]. Whether that's getting people actual housing, providing support around food and shelter, heat, all those necessities in life that a family would want to have, we find that a lot of our kids just don't have that."

When the Whole School Model was introduced to Jefferson High School just over 5 years ago, Jefferson's graduation was under 44 percent. In the years since, the number of students that have enrolled in the program and the outcomes for the North

Portland school have increased each year.

These gains match state trends, where graduation rates are up two percent.

However despite those advances, Oregon continues to report some of the worst graduation rates in the country—especially for African Americans. Despite making up less than 3 percent of the state's pupils, Oregon has the third-worst track-record of graduating Black students in the country.

Jefferson — a school that, in recent years, was con-

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Culturally Relevant Education

Know Your City, Teaching With Purpose push to include more diverse stories in education

By **Arashi Young**
Of The Skanner News

When Katherine Quaid spoke to Portland City Commissioners, she wanted them to know what it was like to be a person of color seeing history through a White lens.

A citizen of the confederated tribes of Umatilla, Quaid described a shallow representation of indigenous

peoples in history lessons.

She said maybe students knew about the Trail of Tears or Wounded Knee, but they did not get a deep understanding of indigenous culture.

"What we do not learn is about the contemporary American Indian cultures, issues, policies ... and how our history has been skewed by the pen of the colonizers, favoring those of European descent while shutting out

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Brett Bigham, Katherine Quaid and Cameron Whitten testified at City Hall last week about the importance of culturally inclusive education.



Christopher Kalonji, 19, Oak Grove (at right), died Thursday after a standoff with law enforcement. Two Clackamas County Sheriff's Office deputies are on paid leave after firing shots, but the exact manner of death has not been released.

Deputies on Leave After Shooting

19-year-old Christopher Kalonji is dead following a mental health crisis

By **Christen McCurdy**
Of The Skanner News

Christopher Kalonji, a 19-year-old Black man from Clackamas County, died last week following what Clackamas County Sheriff's officers described as an eight-hour standoff that began as a mental health crisis intervention.

According to a press release from the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, two officers are on paid administrative leave after using force last Thursday against Kalonji. Sgt. Tony Killinger, who has been with the sheriff's office for 15 years, and Deputy Lon Steinhau-

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Kam Talks to Marlon Wayans

His latest comedy is 'Fifty Shades of Black'

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Local Events for This Week

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