

Summit

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"And it's a very positive place to be," Causey said.

Just two years ago administrators pulled the plug on Causey's Black education program at Portland Community College on the Monday after her first success summit attracted 300 students.

College officials at the

sions for the future.

"I'm from Portland, Oregon and so I'm a product of the school system here," she said. "I remember a time when I used to have Black teachers, before the school district started busing students.

"Now you talk to students and they don't have Black teachers, they don't

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time said the program had run out of money, but within a year former PCC President Jeremy Brown was forced out of his job, with a \$300,000 severance from the college.

Left without a venue, Causey didn't give up advocating for culturally competent education. Last year she helped re-launch the Black Baccalaureate program for high school students — a major accomplishment for local families pushing to keep their kids interested in school.

Oregon's high school graduation rates are among the lowest in the nation for students of all races. That's why Causey said she has expanded her approach to reach kids as young as middle school through a new program for young teens called the Middle Passage to Education, held in January.

Almost 100 middle schoolers showed up a few weeks ago for the first Black Student Success Summit tooled just for them. Causey said high schoolers and college students volunteered their time at the event to support the youngsters' goals and vi-

see themselves in the curriculum, they need time to be together and have connections to other students and adults that look like them," Causey said.

Her big idea is to bring in people from outside of education. "So we bring in community, we bring in businesses; we are actually trying to create a pipeline," she said.

"I hear people all the time saying they're going to diversify, we're going to diversify.

"My thought is that if we continue to do what we've done, we'll continue to get what we've got."

Causey said she was inspired to dedicate her life to student success when she was in graduate school.

"When I was working for the community college, I was watching a lot of students take anywhere between three and five years to get a two-year degree," she said. "A lot of our students were walking out with \$30,000 and \$40,000 worth of debt and I thought it was outrageous."

Black students bear the burden of an educational system that doesn't work for them starting in grade school, she said.



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

RGB in the CD

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray and a couple of boys from the community cut a ribbon, to officially dedicate the newly painted crosswalk on Martin Luther King Blvd at Powell Barnett Park. The crosswalk was painted in the Pan-African colors of red, green and black as a way of acknowledging the history of the African American community in the Central District.

Justice

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national Safety and Justice Challenge, a project that seeks to reduce over-incarceration. It was released internally to county officials last fall but only made public in mid-February.

The report broke down experiences like referrals to the district attorney's office, arraignment and prosecutorial charging, assignment of court-appointed counsel and pretrial release by demographics.

It found cases where the suspect of a crime is Black were 440 percent more likely to be referred for prosecution; Black offenders were 29 percent less likely to have cases diverted and 700 percent more likely to be referred to jail or prison.

The report also shows notable disparities for other racial minorities — including disproportionate representation of Hispanic and Native American populations in jail.

What it doesn't do is ask why the disparities exist, or make recommendations for change. Now

stakeholders — including Metropolitan Public Defenders, the ACLU, Oregon Justice Resource Center and Partnership for Safety and Justice — are asking the county to take steps to address those disparities.

Lane Borg, the executive director of Metropolitan Public De-

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fender Services, said in a press statement released by the ACLU of Oregon that the organization would like to see “measurable goals in place” to understand and reduce disparities.

“Multnomah County is to be commended for participating in the Safety and Justice Challenge. But now all of us working within the criminal justice system need to take ownership,” Borg also said.

A 2011 report on youth tried as adults in Oregon produced similar findings: that youth of color,

particularly African American youth, are much more likely to be tried as adults than White youth.

That report showed that while just 4 percent of youth under 18 in Oregon are Black, they represent 19 percent of Measure 11 indictments.

A majority of indicted youth

end up with plea deals that allow them to sidestep mandatory sentences, but still leave them with adult convictions on their record.

In general, hard data offering demographic breakdowns in the criminal justice systems can be scarce, at least in local jurisdictions. An internal report showing Black inmates in Multnomah county jails are more likely to be subject to use of force didn't become public until February, after local media filed public records requests for it.

iPhone

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any iPhone — not just Syed Farook's.

At one point during the demonstration a man shouted that the protestors were supporting terrorism. He continued goading the crowd as he walked, still screaming when he was a block away.

His counter protest was mostly drowned out by booing from the crowd and calls for the right to privacy.

Raiford spoke about the history of

opening because you are investigating against us, because you think that we are a threat, we need to keep you out of our business," Raiford said. "It's not your business until we bring it to you. It ain't your business until we are sitting at the table talking to you about it."

The poster Raiford carried read "Secure Phones Save Lives."

Raiford knows she is being watched because of her Don't Shoot Portland

“If killing us is something that is happening because you are investigating against us, because you think that we are a threat, we need to keep you out of our business

COINTELPRO activities to spy on political organizations. She mentioned the surveillance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, and John F. and Bobby Kennedy, who were all later assassinated.

"If killing us is something that is hap-

activism. She said she has organized protests where she wasn't sure anyone would show up, and yet there was a large police presence waiting for her.

In November of last year the Oregon Department of Justice came under fire

for investigating people who used the hashtag #BlackLivesMatter on social media. The investigation profiled social media users as part of an assessment of potential police threats. Even the Director of Civil Rights for the State Justice Department, Erious Johnson, was profiled.

The ACLU of Oregon said this investigation was illegal — state and local police cannot collect information about the political, religious or social views of any individual or group that is unrelated to a criminal investigation.

Sarah Armstrong, the outreach director of the ACLU of Oregon spoke in support of Apple standing up for personal security. She said the smartphones of today carry an enormous amount of



PHOTO BY ARASHI YOUNG

Demonstrators gathered in front of the Apple Store last week to ask the company continue to protect their privacy.

information about our private lives; from conversations, to locations, to banking information and much more.

Armstrong said the new request of Apple is much different than previous requests for information.

Read the full story at TheSkanner.com