

## PSU Dean cont'd from pg 1

the largest employer. Currently, 350 of its graduates are working as administrators in 96 Oregon school districts. Lynn spoke with *The Skanner* over the phone from his current home in South Bend, where he is a professor and the dean of the School of Education at Indiana University. He

the very bottom of that. I've seen that in every place I've worked, and I've worked in a number of states at public institutions of higher education. So wherever I go, it's always part of my mission to try to address that issue; because I feel that public institutions of higher education

“You've got to really deal with America's racial history if you're going to talk about the origin of the N-word... and it's a racial history lesson. Teachers have to be prepared to do that”

relocates to Portland this summer to begin his new leadership role at PSU.

**The Skanner News:** How would you like to see the outcomes for students of color in Oregon improve?

**Marvin Lynn:** Unfortunately we have a situation in the United States where there are education disparities across the board — whether that's Oregon, Indiana, Illinois or New York. We see these disparities between differently situated groups. For example, poor and working class kids don't achieve at the same level as kids that are more well off.

We also see that disparity between African American, Latino, White and Asian American students, where White and Asian American students perform at the bottom level in terms of academic achievement, and Latino and African American students often times performing at the bottom levels. In many cases, African American male students are at

should be engaged in these larger questions of education disparity — or as some would refer to as achievement gaps — because it leads to other kinds of disparities later on, such as income, employment, degree attainment.

As a dean of the Graduate School of Education, I feel very strongly about the role of teacher education and educational leadership, and being invested in solving that challenge. We (need) to direct our instructional effort — in terms of what we do with our students who are going to be working in these schools and communities — and shape our curriculum in a way that is designed to really transform that problem into a positive. That's a big goal anywhere I go, and Oregon will be no different. I have colleagues at Portland State that are absolutely committed to that as well, and are looking to doing that work at a higher level.

Read the full story at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)

## Doulas cont'd from pg 1

land area — using culturally competent doulas in the Sacred Roots Doula Program.

In Oregon and nationwide, Black and African American families experience wide disparities in birth outcomes compared to White families and to other minority groups. According to 2014's Maternal, Child and Family Health Data Book compiled by Multnomah County, mothers identifying as Black or African American were 1.7 times more likely than non-Latina White women to experience an unintended pregnancy, 1.2 times more likely not to access prenatal care at all or to access it too late in pregnancy, 2.1 times more likely to give birth to a child with low birthweight and 2.3 times more likely to experience postnatal depression.

Nationally, African American families are 1.5 times more likely to experience preterm birth, and the Centers for Disease control records an infant mortality rate that's 2.4 times higher

for African American families than for White families.

“Initially, doulas were for upper middle class White women,” said Porter, who also serves as the diverse communities chair of the Oregon Doula Association.

In addition to working with African American women, the program will

“Initially, doulas were for upper middle class White women”

serve homeless mothers and teenagers, and Family Care will track outcomes — including the rate of natural (rather than Caesarian) birth and success with breastfeeding. Porter wants to ensure everyone who wants to work with a doula can access doula services.

Porter received doula training herself in 2014, and BPI works with five

other doulas, all of whom are African American and will be paired with African Americans in need of prenatal care. “Most doulas work with families later in their pregnancy, at 35 weeks and up,” Porter said.

“Our community-based doulas are considered full-circle doulas.”

They start working with families earlier in pregnancy, and typically visit homes two or three times after a child is born.

BPI contracts with Family Care, which has provided some grant funding for the project, said Oscar Clark, vice president of integrated services at Family Care.

“It's really someone from the community, walking with them hand in hand through their pregnancy and someone just to be there when you have a lot of unknowns,” Clark told *The Skanner*.

Clark also said Family Care will use the project as an opportunity to track outcomes — including any change in

should have ended with the settlement. “Generally, once we sign a settlement, everybody goes their own way and gets back to work,” Commissioner Smith said, on the phone with *The Skanner*. “I didn't agree with the settlement, but I

“I think this is politically and racially motivated” — Commissioner Smith

the commissioner's mistreatment of staff, Smith's cycling through seven chiefs of staff in six years, and her use of public resources for personal gain.

Yet despite the recent settlement, the employee's accusations continue to bear weight on Smith, who is only the second African American to serve as a Multnomah County commissioner.

“A human resources investigation into (Kwon's) claims is ongoing,” Julie Sullivan-Springhetti, communications director for Multnomah County, told *The Skanner* last week.

But Smith said suspicions

had no power to stop it.” She asserted that Kwon's claims have not been substantiated by the County Attorney's Office.

According to Smith and Crispin, the external investigation currently being carried out is a tactic by County Chair Deborah Kafoury to undermine the commissioner politically and malign her reputation.

“(Kafoury) thinks I'm going to run against her,” said Smith, referring to the 2018 primary election when the Chair seat will be on the ballot.

Read more at [TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)



PHOTO BY SUSAN FRIED

## Science March

An estimated 20,000 people showed up for the Science March, on Earth Day April 22 at Cal Anderson park. After listening to Washington Governor Jay Inslee, Congresswoman Suzan Del Bene and other speakers representing the scientific and environmental communities the marchers made their way to the Seattle Center. The Seattle Science March was one of hundreds held across the country in response to the Trump administration's plans to defund the Environmental Protection Agency and cut billions of dollars from scientific research.

## Smith cont'd from pg 1

“We continue to have ongoing concerns over the disparate treatment provided by the county in personnel matters involving African Americans, whether those persons are the subjects of an HR investigation or are accused of some kind of misconduct,” reads the tort, filed by Smith's lawyer, Craig Crispin.

The notice comes on the heels of a settlement agreement that was reached with Smith's policy advisor, MeeSeon Kwon, two months after she made potentially damaging allegations against her boss.

On April 5, the county agreed to pay Kwon \$23,820, which includes attorney fees, plus six months' administrative leave. Her resignation is expected on or before Sept. 8, 2017, as stated in the agreement.

The settlement was the result of Kwon's Jan. 22 email, published by *Willamette Week* in February, in which she claimed Smith had used county resources for her personal campaign events, and then asked staffers to sign



PUBLIC DOMAIN PHOTO

FamilyCare has partnered with Black Parent Initiative to provide doula support to African American women in FamilyCare's network in order to improve birth outcomes.

the rate of Caesarian versus natural deliveries as well as success with breastfeeding. Once the CCO's two-year contract is up, the CCO will evaluate the data it's gathered to see what worked and what didn't, with the goal of helping build a doula program that is sustainable over the long term.