

Internship cont'd from pg 1

had an interest in fashion. For her, interning at Dress for Success was an incredibly welcoming experience.

"I like how everyone is super kind. They treat you like a part of the team, and you never feel left out," said Duku, who will be a junior at in the fall.

A program of Worksystems Inc., SummerWorks secured funding

merWorks first provides work-readiness and soft skills training in the month preceding. With the help of its partner, Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization, the program then matches the young participants with suitable employers based on their skills and preferences.

The target is that each participant will contribute 180 work hours

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to provide paid internships for some 1,154 teens and young adults this year. Youths between the ages of 16 and 24 in Multnomah and Washington counties are eligible to apply.

Established eight years ago through the Obama administration's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, SummerWorks had initially served 1,300 youths. Federal funding is no longer available, but the program has made considerable strides with multiple partnerships and expanding its sponsorship through Multnomah County and the city of Portland.

This year, SummerWorks placed the highest number of youths since its 2009 launch.

It's also hit some noteworthy milestones over the years, including 89 percent of youth completing their internships and receiving positive evaluation from their supervisors; and 93 percent of youth returning to high school, post-secondary school or becoming employed.

While the job placement runs from June 1 to Sept. 30 each year, Sum-

merWorks coach Mukendi Kim of IRCO, but that's a deliberate choice.

"The slow process helps the participants absorb more of the skills," Kim said.

Worksystems Inc. reports that over the past 10 years, summer youth employment has dropped from 44 percent to 26 percent. Among diverse and low-income youth, employment is as low as 12 percent

That's why over 90 percent of SummerWorks participants are low-income, while 76 percent are youth of color.

During last week's luncheon, Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith shared a few words with the young interns, urging them to value "how important that first job experience is for your future career."

Accruing employment after the internship is finished is also a hopeful goal of SummerWorks.

Read more at TheSkanner.com



Hood to Coast Relay

This year's Hood to Coast and Portland to Coast took place from Aug. 25 - 27, 2017. The Skanner's team – The West Coast Steppers – were among the thousands of participants in the event. Hood to Coast/Portland to Coast Relays is the most popular relay race in the world with 20,000 participants from 50 states and 43 countries. The event has sold out for 19 consecutive years, and annually places an additional 40,000 hopeful runners and walkers on a waiting list. Portland to Coast is the largest walk relay in the world and one of Oregon's largest walking events of any kind.

ACLU cont'd from pg 1

reform.

For the ACLU of Oregon accountability does not equate to building and filling prisons. Rather, says the organization, it should reflect an increase in access to education, mental health treatment, re-entry support and ensuring equal treatment.

"If we're going to take a significant step forward in modernizing and reforming our criminal justice system – making it fairer and more effective – we're going to need much higher levels of voter engagement with district attorneys," said David Rogers, executive director of the ACLU of Oregon.

District attorneys are lawyers. But they're also the top prosecutors of criminal offense and represent "the state" on a county level. They decide who goes free and who is incarcerated; how severely one is charged with a crime and the number of charges faced. The district attorney also decides if a youth is tried as an adult, and if

an individual enters a treatment program or receives jail time.

"District attorneys are the most powerful elected officials that really no one's ever heard of," said Rogers.

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Through a poll it conducted, the ACLU of Oregon found out that only 23 percent of Oregon voters know who their district attorney is. Furthermore, less than 40 of people are aware that district attorneys are even elected.

The organization is looking to change that by having as much on-the-ground presence as possible, leading up to the elections in May 2018.

In as many counties as possible the ACLU will be organizing resources for Oregon voters to help them get a better sense of what values, policies and practices

their district attorneys stand for.

The ACLU has already begun canvassing in Marion and Washington counties, knocking on over 15,000 doors to get a sense of what residents know about dis-

trict attorneys and criminal justice reform issues.

Marion and Washington counties are two of the largest in the state, and have two of the longest serving district attorneys in Oregon. Next spring both counties will have an open race, providing significant opportunities for voters to reach out and engage.

"Accurate and complete information provided to educate and inform is the answer, not attack ads designed to inflame," said Bob Hermann.

Read more at TheSkanner.com

Studies cont'd from pg 1

eral testimonies from students of color, who argued the inclusion of ethnic studies was critical for the success of students of color.

"Ethnic studies is important because

“I envision a K-12 where my baby brother can learn that our ancestors weren't just slaves

African American history goes beyond slavery. I envision a K-12 where my baby brother can learn that our ancestors weren't just slaves. Imagine the positive impact you will create in generations to come," Raishel Covington, a sophomore at Milwaukie's Rex Putnam High School, said at a March hearing.

Advocates also argued more inclusive curricula are directly correlated

with student success: a campaign site for the bill cites a Stanford study saying students enrolled in ethnic studies classes not only increased their attendance (by 21 percent) and grades (by 1.4 grade points), they also increased the number of course credits they earned (by 23 percent).

The Oregon Ethnic Studies Coalition, formed to fight for the bill, included the Parkrose School District, the Oregon Student Association and the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon. APANO was also a key player last year in a campaign urging Portland Public Schools to adopt an ethnic studies curriculum – which it did.

As *The Skanner* reported at the time, PPS' resolution required the district to convene an advisory group to develop an ethnic studies curriculum and to train teachers, and to add an ethnic studies elective class to every Portland high school by 2018.

PPS spokesperson Jon Coney told *The*



Youth who worked on the campaign to implement an ethnic studies program in Portland Public Schools pose with their fists extended in 2016.

Skanner this week that the oversight committee and student advisory committee have recommended the piloting of the first ethnic studies courses be delayed until 2010 "to ensure enough time and input is provided for the development of suitable curriculum, necessary teacher training and support, as well as a framework of ES that is reflective of the unique and evolving city

of Portland."

PPS' resolution required the district to form two committees: an oversight committee and a student advisory committee. The oversight committee is composed of teachers and community partners, and the student committee is composed of high school students.

Read the full story at TheSkanner.com