

Forest cont'd from pg 1

that they did and what the mission of the Forest Service was, and how the job of the contracting officer helps support that. She pretty much sold me on it. I wanted to make sure I did a job that was helping people, and she definitely showed me that this position does do that," Fuller told *The Skanner*.

“One of the most important things for me is when I get a chance to see the finished project

Fuller works out of the Forest Service's Vancouver, Washington office, managing internal and external contracts that help the Forest Service do its work. That includes both non-emergent infrastructure projects – like repairing a bridge on Forest Service land that needs to be updated for public access – as well as managing contracts during emergencies like forest fires. This can mean bringing outside contractors in where necessary, contracting with caterers to make sure firefighters at base camp are fed, lodged and have access to fire, and other tasks that accompany assembling a base camp.

Fuller recommends young people who are interested in doing similar work to pursue an MBA, which is required for some allocation certificates she needs to do her job. She said her work requires a high

degree of flexibility and open-mindedness. A self-described “city girl,” she had never spent much time in the outdoors before taking her current job, and attention to detail and customer service are needed.

“It really is a fun job. I think one of the most important things for me is when I get a chance to see the finished project and that actually, the contract is complete,” Fuller said. “Now I can see that this bridge has been constructed, and it's going to help the public be able to access some of the areas that are very popular.”

Fuller has worked out of the same office since 2009, but it's common for Forest Service employees to move to different agencies and divisions, and often it's encouraged since seeing how different regional offices work can help employees grow. She's also required to take 80 hours of continuing education every two years to keep her certifications current. Typically she takes courses that are specific to her role – for example, contracting law or ethics in contracting.

Forest Service spokesperson Shandra Terry said anyone interested in finance, accounting or contracting should consider a career path like Fuller's.

“I think it's super important for [readers] to know what's attainable,” Terry said. “In the sense of discipline and education and career track, we need more of, we need our little girls to know that it is attainable – that you become a success and that and that you can start off here, but you never know where you'll end up with that education and that inspiration.”

Start-Ups cont'd from pg 1

again: lack of funding.

“Money creates a whole set of new complex challenges, but it usually solves an immediate problem,” said Michel – from paying a company's rent to paying its utility bills.

Their funding woes are not unique to them, however.

In 2016, female-led companies made up just under 5 percent of all venture capital deals, while less than 1 percent went to Black founders.

Michel said it's a typical scenario faced by most budding entrepreneurs – one he compares a band scoring its first short-sighted record deal. “You start your own business as an entrepreneur and you have so much control, then you go to fundraise and you have no control again.”

With their T-shirt campaign, Michel is looking to change the trajectory. “My dream with Fund a Founder is really to create an alternative to traditional funding and dismantle the status quo.”

The child of Haitian immigrants, Michel was born in New York City and has traveled to over 30 countries. Before breaking into tech, Michel toggled among the service industry, fundrais-

“My dream with Fund a Founder is really to create an alternative to traditional funding

ing for local charities, and corporate sales. He's also a sign language interpreter and speaks four languages.

And he's excited for the future.

According to Michel, the next cohort of TiE start-ups is majority minority-owned. “And it wasn't on purpose,” he said. “These are the companies that are doing great and innovative things and are thinking outside of the box. We're here – but we need the money

Michelle J. DePass Named Meyer Memorial Trust's New President and CEO

Meyer Memorial Trust, Oregon's second-largest foundation, today announced Michelle J. DePass as its new president and chief executive officer. She will succeed Doug Stamm, who has led the \$800 million trust since 2002. DePass is currently the dean of the Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Policy and Tishman Professor of Environmental Policy and Management at The New School in New York. Previously, she was appointed to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by President Barack Obama, where she served as assistant administrator for International and Tribal Affairs. Prior to joining the EPA, DePass was a program officer at the Ford Foundation. Her portfolio focused on the environment and community development, including green economy and climate change, environmental health and justice, and indigenous environmental rights. DePass holds a bachelor's degree from Tufts University, a Juris Doctor from Fordham Law School, an honorary doctorate from Fordham University and a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College, where she was a National Urban Fellow.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRICHARD COMMUNICATIONS

Lake Oswego cont'd from pg 1

in leadership: on Feb. 12 the Lake Oswego School Board announced its superintendent, Heather Beck, would be taking a position overseas and that she would be replaced by Michael Musick. June 30 will be Beck's last day. Following the January incident, the district posted a statement on its website saying it was “no secret” that racist incidents were part of the community's history, and that it would follow a restorative justice model in addressing the incident.

“The recent incident in Lake Oswego Junior High confirms that we have more work to do to educate our students about the use of hate speech and to educate our families and teachers and staff about how to respond,” the statement said. “Derogatory and racially charged terms are always unacceptable and should never be used. If any student hears these words, no matter the context, parents should notify the teacher or bus driver, and the principal so action can be taken. We can all learn how to have frank and sometimes courageous conversations about race in our homes and community in order to build the norms that do not allow for hate speech and intoler-

ance to exist.”

The student who received the note was one of three African American students at Lake Oswego Junior High School. The two other Black students said in an interview with *The Skanner News*

“The recent incident in Lake Oswego Junior High confirms that we have more work to do

that the treatment he received fits a pattern of behavior – and that the school district's response has been lacking.

Both Precious Lott and Jay Hawkins told *The Skanner* their daughters have experienced physical assaults at school – one a few years ago in elementary school, and one just recently – that school officials never contacted them about. Ajalia McClure, an eighth grader who has attended Lake Oswego schools most of her academic years, said in fourth grade another child pulled a chunk of her hair out by the root. Dakota Webb, who moved to the area more recently

from Virginia, said earlier this year a student hit her in the face, causing a headache and blurred vision for the rest of the day. Neither Lott, who is McClure's mother, nor Hawkins, who is Webb's father, say they knew about these events until their children came home from school that day.

The girls also described an environment where they hear racial slurs constantly in hallways, where students repeatedly ask them for “permission” to use the n-word, and are frequently the butt of racist jokes and comments.

“I would say I hear [the n-word] 20-30 times a day,” McClure said.

Lott said she was born and raised in Northeast Portland, and attended a predominantly White school in Southeast Portland where she made friends with students she stays in touch with to this day. She never had experiences like the ones her daughter describes to her. Webb said moving to Lake Oswego from a more diverse area has been jarring. The girls are also close to the male student described in previous stories.

“They're the only ones going through this,” Lott said. “At the end of the day, who else do we have but us?”



COURTESY OF FUND A FOUNDER

'Fund a Founder' and 'Black Founders Matter' t-shirts.

to make the dream come true.”

Fund a Founder recently launched an additional T-shirt design – the “naughty robot” for the tech outlier, which is often how minorities and females feel in the start-up arena, Michel explained.

And while Fund a Founder is currently raising capital for his and Brown's companies, the goal is to expand the model to support his peers on a larger scale.

The clothing is also meant to spread awareness about the needs of minority and female start-ups – think of each t-shirt like its own social awareness billboard.

Though still in the early stages, Fund

a Founder is slowly gaining traction, with the first few thousand dollars raised.

“I think it has the ability to change the landscape of funding and also empower other entrepreneurs like ourselves,” said Michel. “We want to make it more hospitable and support people who are trying this too.”