



Photo by Justin Phillips

Kennedy Shares Tribal History

By Justin Phillips

Tribal Council member Cheryle Kennedy recently visited Chemeketa Community College's Woodburn campus to talk with a group of senior citizens about the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The seniors gather at the Woodburn campus' Chemeketa Center for Learning in Retirement to take a class sponsored by Elderhostel and Chemeketa. Elderhostel is a non-profit organization that provides high-quality, affordable, educational opportunities for adults who are 55 and older.

"It provides classes for Elders so they can keep their minds active and also participate in social activities," said Beverly Koutny, Chemeketa's North County Literacy Project Coordinator. "The class this term was Northwest Indian Culture."

Kennedy talked about the Tribe's history and culture.

The seniors then visited the Grand Ronde area a week later. They enjoyed lunch at Spirit Mountain Casino and a tour of all the Tribal offices.

"They are really interested in Indian culture," said Koutny.

Grand Ronde Adult Education Survey Results Are In

By Dorna Riding In, Adult Education Coordinator

Education surveys were mailed to the enrolled adult membership in November and administered on-site during several Tribal activities in early December. The Education department had 46 completed surveys returned by late December.

Here is an overview of the survey and review of the results:

The survey was divided into four main sections that reflect the scope of the Adult Education program: Work Related Training, Tribal Community, Personal Needs, Family, Life Skills and Education.

The most responses were in the Tribal Community section with 85, followed by the Personal Needs and Family Life Skills section with 83. Work related training received 60 responses and Education received 57.

The majority of the respondents were interested in learning more about the Tribal community and developing personal, family and life skills. This trend was reflected in urban as well as local responses. Money management, a sub-section of the Personal, Family and Life Skills section, garnered the most individual responses with 31 respondents indicating an interest. Increasing Tribal knowledge from the Tribal Community section and computer skills in the Education section each received 28 responses.

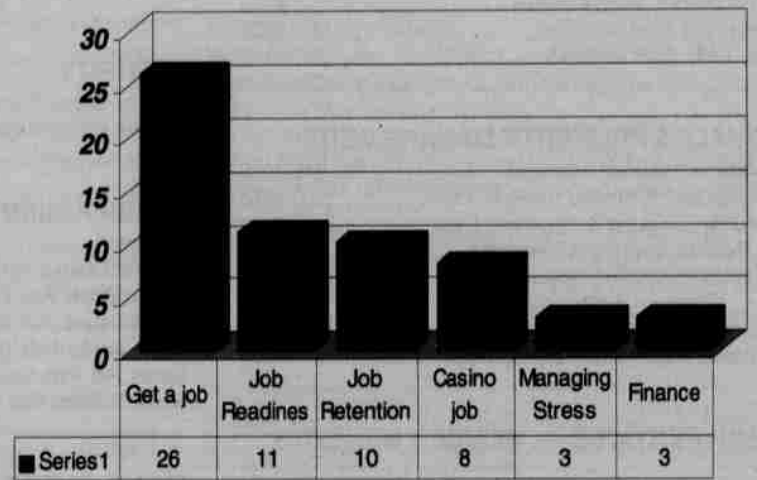
One section of the survey asked members to indicate the day and time they could attend classes and workshops.

76 percent of respondents indicated their participation and attendance in classes was effected by outside barriers, often a single participant facing multiple obstacles. The most often cited was Lack of Funding followed by a need for childcare. Multiple respondents cited full-time employment as a barrier to attending daytime classes, but were interested in evening and weekend opportunities.

The Final section of the survey solicited any comments or suggestions in order to deliver the best service to the Grand Ronde adult population and promote lifelong learning. Most members chose to offer both support and direction to the Adult Education coordinator.

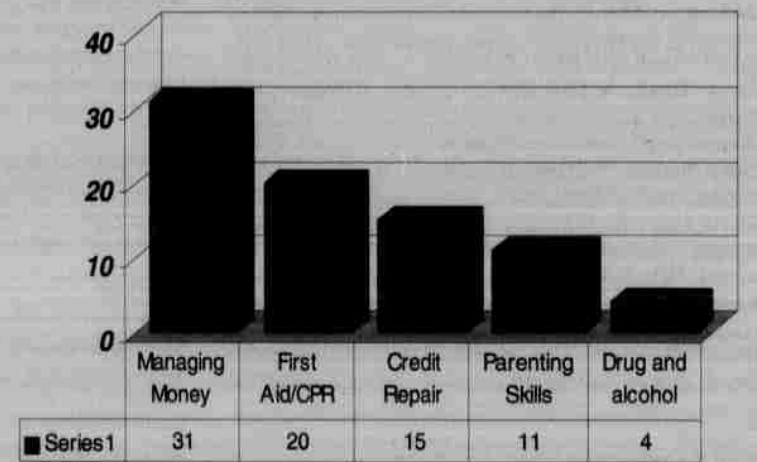
It is important to notice how committed the respondents are to utilizing services if offered at a time and place to help overcome the obstacles to participation. It is also indicated that the age range of respondents is from high school age to late in life. Those Tribal members that use the Metro office find the facility inadequate to serve an active Adult Education program, however, are eager to participate if workshops and classes are offered.

WORK RELATED TRAINING



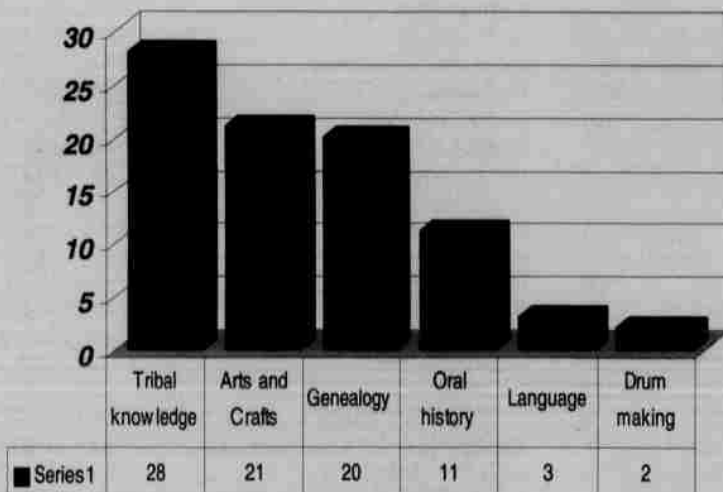
In the Work Related Training section, 56 percent of the survey participants were interested in securing or advancing to a better job. Job readiness, retention skills and improving opportunities for employment at the casino were also high on the list. Survey respondents suggested stress management skills and finance training as other possible offerings. According to the survey results, metro and local respondents were not as interested in this category as compared to the Tribal Community.

PERSONAL /FAMILY /LIFE SKILLS



In the Personal, Family and Life Skill section, money management was a skill 67 percent of the survey respondents wanted. CPR and first aid training was second with all Metro respondents indicating interest. Those respondents who indicated parenting skills as a choice indicated weekends as the time they would be able to attend. Multiple respondents suggested Drug and Alcohol awareness be included in the Adult Education program.

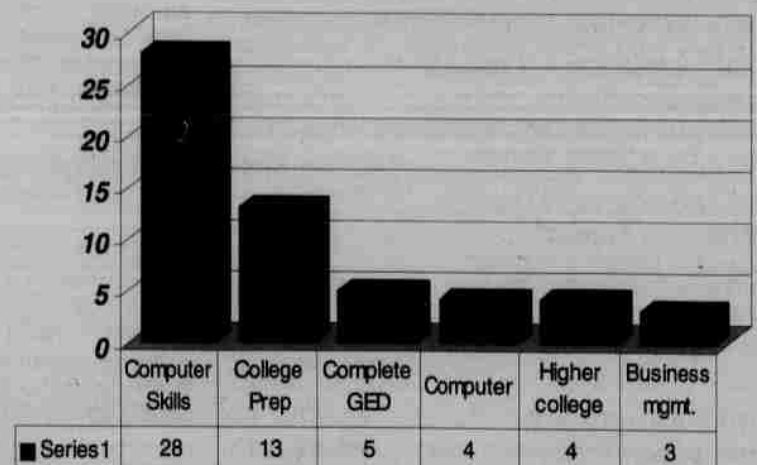
TRIBAL COMMUNITY



In the Tribal Community section, 60 percent of participants were interested in increasing their Tribal knowledge and Tribal history awareness. Participants said they wanted to learn the skills to research their family history and also said they wanted to participate in an oral history project with the Elders.

Many suggestions were made in this section, from learning more about traditional crafts and lifestyles to studying the laws and ordinances of the Tribe. One suggestion was made to start a Culture Committee. One metro respondent would like outings and field trips to help connect learning and lore.

EDUCATION



In the Education section, 60 percent were interested in gaining computer skills. Many of those surveyed offered suggestions including business management training and higher-level college courses for credit and technical certification.