



Honors In Education

UMPQUA

MOLALLA

ROGUE RIVER

KALAPUYA

CHASTA



A Leader In Education — Grand Ronde Tribal member and Education Manager Marion Mercier welcomes everyone at the Education Honor and Recognition dinner, a yearly event where the Tribe pays tribute to those who have made achievements in education. Behind Mercier are Pendleton blankets, each one given to a student who has distinguished themselves over the past year. Blankets and other gifts are a traditional way of showing admiration for someone, and it is considered a great honor to be given a blanket by one's Tribe.

By Marion Mercier

Just over 250 Tribal members were recognized for their achievements at the Education Division's Annual Honor & Recognition Dinner that was held on June 21, 2003 at the Tribal Gym. The event was attended by over 300 people. A total of 129 graduates were honored ranging from preschool through college graduates; 126 students in grades K-12 received Achievement & Recognition Awards and 43 Education Trust Fund Scholarships were awarded. Guest speakers included Tribal members June Olson, who spoke on 'Reflection,' Connie Holmes who spoke on 'Restoration' and Pete Wakeland who spoke on 'Recognition.' All three guest speakers are graduates of Oregon colleges.



The Education Division would like to extend our thanks to our Tribal Council, whose commitment and support for providing of educational opportunities to the membership truly makes positive impacts on the lives of the Tribal members who are served. Councilman Ed Pearsall was recognized at the event for dedicating eight years of service as advisory liaison to the Tribal Education Committee. Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison was recognized for her years of commitment to education as well as for receiving an Honorary Degree from Portland State University. Tribal member and Early Childhood Education Program Director,

Vikki Bishop was recognized for developing the Grand Ronde Preschool into an exemplary and model program. Congratulations, and thank you all for your hard work. The Education Division is fortunate to have a very qualified and committed staff. In closing, I would like to say 'thank you' to each of them, their dedication and belief in what they do is what makes the division what it

is, an open door for all Tribal members to begin a new journey with the knowledge that they are not alone, that the people in Education will be there to provide support and encouragement as needed each step of the way. Great staff, excellent students and a supportive



Honored For His Efforts — Former Tribal education Committee Chair Candy Robertson (left) hugs former Tribal Council member Ed Pearsall. Pearsall was recognized for his eight years of service on the Grand Ronde Tribal Education Committee, where he was a liaison between the Education Department and the Tribal Council.

Photos by Mychal Leno

Tribal Council forms the foundation of success and lifelong self sufficiency for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. It's my honor to be a part of the team. ■



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