

2004 Honor & Recognition Dinner And Awards

Education continued from front page

many, this accomplishment is a life-changing achievement. Culture curriculum has been added to the Adult Education Program content. This has brought in additional students to the program, time for students to teach their individual talent to other students and or learn or participate in a new experience. Computer skills development and Financial Skills for families are two other specialty classes offered this year in the Adult Education Program. "Hats off" to all of our hard-working students and our great teacher.

The Tribal Higher Education Programs recognized 25 Tribal member graduates at the annual 2004 Honor & Recognition Dinner. 10 students earned a certificate or two year — A.S. Degree; ten students earned an undergraduate — B.S. Degree and 5 students earned a graduate — Masters Degree. This is impressive and says a lot about the determination and perseverance of our students, not to mention the 'brain power' involved. Again, we're fortunate to have an experienced and caring staff to provide the necessary support services needed to help our students reach their goals. 368 Tribal member students (unduplicated #) received services from the Short term, Continuing & Distance Education Program on a part-time basis this year. Think about that, a caseload of 368 files, taking a total of 671 classes or training with an 85 – 87percent success rate! Throughout the year we had 150 full-time students in the AVT and Higher Education Programs and a total of 69 Education Scholarship Program students. Support services included hosting an annual Financial Aid Workshop, Scholarship workshop, attending and facilitating campus visits, participating in related training on student services and on college boards and in addition participate in Youth Education Program student support services and activities. The Higher Education Programs staff works closely with the Tribal Education Committee on program advisory matters and issues regularly as well.

Education Administration has had a busy year. Our new Counselor-Advisor, Rachel

Warner has quickly established services and sponsored events in the short time she has been with us. The College & Career Fair was a big success with over 100 students attending from local high schools, Chemawa students from Salem and NAYA students from Portland. Over 35



Marion Mercier
Education Manager

Colleges, Universities, Proprietary and Private schools attended as well as several local employers. Washington Mutual and Pepsi, COSTCO, Safeway and Spirit Mountain Casino helped sponsor the event. College placement testing is held on site every 2nd Tuesday of the month, and counseling services are offered one-on-one, in small groups and in workshop settings to high school students and adults of all ages. New this year was the hosted College Prep Week events

held at Western Oregon University and at the Grand Ronde campus.

The Tribal Library is quickly becoming a legacy of the Tribe in the library area. What once was two shelves of donated and discarded books and a dream of what could be, the Tribal Library has grown to a collection of 1,600 items. We currently have 230 Library card holders in our small community. This fact truly defines us as a community of readers. The Tribe was awarded three Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS) grants that have afforded the purchase of reference materials and collection items as well as supporting two part-time library positions. In addition, the grant awards funded a Library Needs Assessment and now provides funds to pursue library development that will meet needs identified in the needs assessment. Chris Mercier was hired as the first Tribal Librarian in March 2004. Since then Chris has managed to become expert enough with the Library software system to get the Library circulation and cataloging completely automated. Special programs and activities will be offered beginning this fall. A huge Thank you to our past and current Tribal Council for their support and generosity in building a library facility and for the value they bestow on education and learning for our community membership.

Through an Administration for Native Americans (ANA) grant award, the Education Division is the lead on development of a Tribal Media Center. Recruitment is underway to hire a Media Development Specialist and to contract through the RFP process a Media Center Development Consultant. Once key people are hired, the Media Center equipment needs will be researched and purchased. Then, staff will be trained and we will have the ability to develop and produce Tribal and education related media materials.

The Education Division Program staff has established goals and objectives for the upcoming year and is looking forward to another successful and rewarding year. We are appreciative to our Education Committee members for the time they devote to our Education Programs and to our Tribal Council for their unwavering support of education opportunity for the Tribal membership. Thank you.

Photo by Peta Tinda

HeadStart & Preschool

By Elaine Lane, HeadStart Teacher

The early childhood program has been full of activity as usual. Forty-eight families were served this year, eight of those being in the culture program's Chinuk immersion classroom. Nineteen of these children graduate this year and move onto Kindergarten programs in the area.

Our staff has again worked hard to ensure that the whole child and family are served. Each child's education plan is individualized to address: physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional skills. Families are also given opportunities to create goals for their children as well as themselves; our program helps to get these goals met throughout the year.

A number of other programs have visited our facilities this year in order to learn more about how our school operates. It has been a pleasure to network with these people and to give them suggestions on how to build a successful center.

The children's outcomes showed strong progress again this year. The children made gains in all areas, but the most noted improvement came in the social and emotional areas. Much of this can be attributed to the work of a counselor that the program contracted to work with staff, families and children in need of any mental health services. By ensuring that the children have a strong social and emotional base as they move on to higher grades, we are setting the stage for future well-being and ability

to learn.

Literacy was also a very strong outcome this year. The zoo phonics curriculum has been implemented in the older classroom and has been making notable changes in the children's awareness of letter sounds. The program is very kinesthetic and fun for children to use. Staff members hope to bring some developmentally appropriate aspects of this curriculum to the younger room next year as well.

Our family literacy efforts have also been successful this year. In fact, our program has received the honor of presenting our approach to family literacy at a national conference in Washington, D.C. this fall. We were honored to be one of only two programs chosen nationwide as an exemplary model of family literacy.

Literacy nights were well attended once again, with a record number of families attending this year. The Parent Committee worked alongside Junelle Fox, our health and family partnerships coordinator, to put on yet another wonderful luau to end the literacy nights for the year. Without their hard work and dedication, this night would not be the success that it has been. Trudi Yoshikawa was gracious enough to read our book this year and translate all the children's names into Hawaiian for them.

Another special literacy night was hosted by a local officer who taught the children and fami-

lies strategies to keep safe from strangers. All children attending were fingerprinted and had DNA sampling done. Families were advised what to do if they were ever separated from their children and many questions were answered.

Physical education and nutrition were also stressed this year. With the national average of children with obesity and diabetes reaching dangerous proportions, our program has tried to make an early difference in the children and families' perception of nutrition and health. Tim Bucknell, our nutrition expert, has continued to create healthy and appealing meals for the children and has also come into classrooms to discuss different nutrition issues with the children. He has taught them about portion control, sometimes and anytime foods and much more. Tim has also been instrumental in bringing healthy new foods into the children's diets, while also maintaining a strong sense of cultural foods too. Parents have been encouraged to suggest meal ideas for the program and were asked to share family recipes for a cookbook that the program is creating. Tim also made himself available to the families to help them with any nutrition questions and concerns. For the second year in a row, he held a nutrition class for the families. These classes have been so well-received that parents have asked that they be held two times per year in the future.