

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Regina McLoud, Communications Officer at (503) 947-5803

## **Castillo Recognizes Seven Outstanding Oregon Community/School Partnerships**

**SALEM** – State Schools Superintendent Susan Castillo announced today that seven partnerships have been named as recipients of the 2008 Outstanding Community/School Partnership Awards. This is the third year that Castillo has recognized Outstanding Community/School Partnerships, and each one was selected based on its dedicated mission, diverse participants and partnerships, sustainable funding, meaningful programs, and attainable goals.

“Teamwork and partnership are wise investments in our schools, our students, their families, and our communities,” Castillo said. “When we pool our resources and services, we ensure that each and every child is given the best chance to succeed. When every community puts education first, then the needs of all children are met through the work of family members, community members, and school leaders.”

### **The 2008 Outstanding Community/School Partnership Award Recipients are:**

- Clackamas County Head Start and Gladstone School District for their Hats Off to Reading program
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Siletz Valley Schools for their Siletz Tribal Community School Partnership
- Dental Health Solutions for Children and Salem-Keizer School District for their Salem Keizer School District~Dental Health Solutions for Children program (DHS/C Program)
- Lincoln City Community and Lincoln City Schools for their Backpack Food Program
- Metropolitan Family Service, Stand for Children, and North Clackamas School District for the North Clackamas After School Task Force
- Salem Chamber of Commerce, Keizer Chamber of Commerce, and Salem-Keizer Public Schools for their Ready to Learn-Ready to Work program
- Winston Area Community and Winston-Dillard School District for their Winston Area Community Partnership (WACP)

### **Clackamas County Head Start and Gladstone School District for the Hats Off to Reading program**

The Hats Off to Reading program is a free summer literacy program conducted at two local apartment complexes. Head Start staff, Kindergarten teachers, and Gladstone high school students read to children weekly in their home community, provide specific literacy enhancing instruction to the children’s parents, and provide 12-15 quality books for each child to keep and read at home.

“The more time parents and children spend in quality reading time, the better kids are prepared for the challenges of Kindergarten,” Castillo said. “The Hats Off to Reading program is one great example of early literacy intervention programs.”

### **Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Siletz Valley Schools for the Siletz Tribal Community School Partnership**

The Siletz Tribal Community School partnership has worked to keep the Siletz Elementary School open by seeking and obtaining charter school status in 2003. Last year, they reopened the high school after it had been closed for 24 years, and they have provided supplemental funding to enhance academic programs and building maintenance projects. Other partnership activities include: development of preventive drug programs such as Red Ribbon Week, infusing cultural activities and Siletz language acquisition into the classroom, and providing classroom volunteers. “The Siletz Tribal Community School Partnership is working together to create the best education experience for students to live, work, and progress in a diverse society,” Castillo said. “I am proud of this strong community partnership, and their efforts are paying off. The elementary school K-8 met AYP targets under No Child Left Behind for the last two years, and they received a 'strong' rating on the 2006-07 Oregon school report card.”

#### **Dental Health Solutions for Children and Salem-Keizer School District for the Salem Keizer School District~Dental Health Solutions for Children program (DHS/C Program)**

The Salem-Keizer School District’s Dental Health Solutions for Children program is dedicated to improving the oral health of youth by networking and collaborating with advocacy groups, youth-serving agencies, and dental health professionals. The Dental Health Solutions for Children program emphasizes dental disease prevention education, prevention services, and access to treatment.

“In order for students to be successful in mastering the strong curriculum necessary to prepare them for work and life, they must be ready to learn. We know that only healthy students are truly ready and able to learn,” said Castillo. “The Dental Health Solutions for Children program helps assure that students are healthy and ready for their future.”

#### **Lincoln City Community and Lincoln City Schools for the Backpack Food Program**

The Backpack Food Program provides “chronically hungry” children with food to take home over the weekends. Backpacks are stocked with nutritious, child-friendly, easy-to-prepare food and distributed to children on the last day before the weekend. The community has joined together to provide food storage space, and numerous volunteers give of their time weekly to help stock shelves, pick up donated food from various businesses and churches, purchase food, pack backpacks, and transport filled backpacks to schools.

“The Lincoln City community is doing amazing things. Within a year the Backpack Food Program has gone from helping 10-12 children a week to helping over 100 children a week, providing each child with a backpack full of food for the weekend,” Castillo said. “By ensuring that kids are not hungry, the program makes sure that students can focus more on their studies.”

#### **Metropolitan Family Service, Stand for Children, and North Clackamas School District for the North Clackamas After School Task Force**

The North Clackamas After School Task Force is dedicated to providing academically enriching activities designed to give children the opportunity to learn and play in a safe environment after school. Through the work of the Task Force, two comprehensive programs have been launched featuring child and family enrichment, parent engagement and education, intergenerational mentoring/tutoring and kindergarten readiness.

“The North Clackamas After School Task Force is a collaborative partnership uniting students, parents, educators, and community members with a mission to provide students and parents with a safe environment to explore and learn,” said Castillo.

### **Salem Chamber of Commerce, Keizer Chamber of Commerce, and Salem-Keizer Public Schools for the Ready to Learn-Ready to Work program**

The Ready to Learn – Ready to Work program is focused on helping students meet career-related learning standards and develop skills they will need to succeed in the workforce and college. Through work-based learning experiences such as job shadows, mock interviews, internships, workplace tours and classroom presentations, 120 local businesses are helping to make classroom lessons come alive.

“The Ready to Learn-Ready to Work program provides students with access to the workplace, and shows them first-hand the connection between their education and success in careers and college,” Castillo said. “This program is equipping students with workforce skills and helping them to develop visions for the future.”

### **Winston Area Community and Winston-Dillard School District for the Winston Area Community Partnership (WACP)**

The Winston Area Community Partnership is working to reduce substance abuse among youth and adults by addressing the factors in a community that increase the risk of substance abuse and promoting the factors that minimize the risk of substance abuse. WACP dedicated six years to planning and fundraising \$4.6 million to build the Winston Community Center. This building houses the Winston Public Library, Senior Center, Teen Center, two social service offices, a multi-use community room, and a large commercial kitchen where all the “Meals on Wheels” food is prepared for Douglas County.

“The Winston Area Community Partnership is specifically implementing programs to help reduce substance abuse,” said Castillo. “By rallying support for a community need, this partnership is creating a healthy community for kids to learn and grow.”

Each recipient was nominated and invited to apply. A Blue Ribbon panel made up of a Portland State University Professor, State Commission for Children and Families staff member, Oregon Parent Teacher Association staff member, Multnomah County Department of Human Services staff member, Business Advisory Team member, Professional Educators Advisory Team Member, The League of Oregon Cities staff member, members of the 2007 Outstanding Community/School Partnerships, and Department of Education staff helped to narrow down the applicant pool. Superintendent Castillo made the final selection. Each award recipient will receive \$500, a certificate of recognition, and a trophy.

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*Regina McCloud*

Communication Officer  
Oregon Department of Education  
503-947-5803  
[regina.mcloud@state.or.us](mailto:regina.mcloud@state.or.us)