OCF Names New President

The Oregon Community Foundation board of directors recently announced that Max Williams has accepted the position as OCF president beginning February 1, 2012.

Lawyer, former legislator, and head of one of the state’s largest public agencies, Williams is a native Oregonian with a lifelong commitment to the state – nurtured by summers spent working on his uncle’s fishing boat off the Newport coast. He was selected following a nationwide search conducted by the Foundation’s board.

“Max has a combination of experiences that are rare, including work in both rural and urban areas; a clear understanding of Oregon’s strengths and challenges; a belief in the power of education to change outcomes for citizens; and strong statewide networks in the private, nonprofit and government sectors,” said Eric Parsons, chair of the OCF board of directors.

Williams was an attorney with Miller Nash, LLP and represented Tigard for three terms in the Oregon legislature. He is currently the head of the Oregon Department of Corrections. He was appointed to this position by Governor Kulongoski and reappointed by Governor Kitzhaber.

“OCF plays an incredible role in helping improve the lives of Oregonians through philanthropy,” said Williams. “I’m excited to apply my experience in the private, public and nonprofit sectors to the challenges that Oregon faces today and in the future.”

Greg Chaillé, OCF’s current president, is retiring after more than 31 years at the Foundation, 24 of them as president. Chaillé will remain at OCF as a strategic advisor.

Early Childhood Education:
A Lesson in Economics

There is no doubt that investments in early childhood have a significant impact on the economic health of a community. While the research backing this up has been available for a while, increasing attention is now focused on the early years by public officials and business and community leaders across the country. Here in Oregon, two gatherings in September helped catalyze action.

The Whipple Foundation Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation

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A LETTER FROM GREG CHAILLÉ, PRESIDENT

Honoring the Past While Building the Future

I will be stepping down as the OCF president in January, and I want to take this opportunity to thank the many Oregonians with whom I have been privileged to work. Consistent with OCF’s mission, our goal has been to “improve life in Oregon and promote effective philanthropy.” During my 31 years with the Foundation (and 24 years as president), I have had the wonderful opportunity to both improve life and promote philanthropy in significant ways.

Together, we have built a resource that has allowed us to make tremendous investments throughout the state. We have improved early childhood education, provided scholarships for thousands of students, tackled affordable housing, promoted educational opportunities, addressed demographic changes head-on and increased health care for children and families. Oregon is a much better place because of your involvement with OCF.

The challenge for you is to take this great asset and build on it. A growing OCF endowment and volunteer corps will provide even greater benefits for rural and urban communities. With your help, OCF can both support local needs and bridge traditional divides – assuring Oregon a strong future.

I will continue on as strategic advisor to the board and incoming president, Max Williams. Max’s qualifications and experience are a wonderful addition to an already outstanding staff. We pledge our support as we welcome Max, and we look forward to working with you to fulfill the mission of The Oregon Community Foundation.

OCF President Greg Chaillé is honored with a Lifetime Achievement in Philanthropy Award by the Portland Business Journal. The award was presented on Sept. 22 at the Journal’s Corporate Philanthropy Awards luncheon.
Nonprofit and Community Leaders Gather to Celebrate Good Work

Each summer, The Oregon Community Foundation board of directors hosts a reception for nonprofits and community leaders. This year the event was held in Salem at Willamette University. More than 125 people attended, including Salem Mayor Anna Peterson, Willamette University President Stephen Thorsett, Marion County Commissioners Janet Carlson and Sam Brentano and Oregon Rep. Kevin Cameron.

The event featured a presentation about Reading for All, a literacy program begun in Marion County and expanded to Polk and Yamhill counties through a grant from OCF. Other Foundation programs that were highlighted include Community 101, OCF’s youth philanthropy initiative and the Latino Partnership Program, which helps strengthen leaders and organizations in the Latino community.

Fred and Susan Hamlin: The Rewards of Philanthropy

It is often said that giving can be more rewarding than receiving. For ranchers Susan and Fred Hamlin, that may be an understatement. Susan and Fred’s adventure in philanthropy began simply as a strategy for estate planning, but they quickly dove into setting up funds for their favorite causes and learning about new possibilities for donations by attending OCF’s tours of nonprofit organizations. Susan said, “The tours have been fabulous. It’s been very eye-opening, seeing places that we wouldn’t know existed otherwise.”

Fred has been instrumental in creating The Oregon Community Foundation Meals on Wheels-Case and Velma Hamlin Designated Fund in honor of his parents for ongoing gifts to the Red Cross Meals on Wheels program. He has also helped establish another fund through OCF, designated for the Oregon Scholarship Commission in memory of a friend. Both Fred and Susan have served on OCF scholarship committees.

Through OCF, Fred and Susan are becoming part of the giving community. Susan said, “It’s been surprising to me to meet the other donors and discuss with them their feelings and where they direct their money. Everybody is just so individual about how they handle it. It’s been rewarding to find out that it doesn’t really matter. It’s how you feel, from your heart, where you want to give and how you want to do it.”

Susan Hamlin and “friend.” Photo courtesy of The Register-Guard.

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Northern Willamette Valley members Jane Jones, Don Russo and Lois Riopelle.
This spring, the OCF board of directors approved $12.2 million in grants to nonprofits across the state. Our donors have responded to the increased needs in Oregon with increased contributions as nonprofits continue to offer more services with fewer staff, and volunteers donate critical time and skills. Thank you.

CENTRAL OREGON
The Nature of Words in Bend received a $10,000 grant from the J.G. Edwards Fund of OCF to expand educational programs that provide creative writing instruction to Central Oregon youth and adults.

“Thanks to the support of The Oregon Community Foundation, The Nature of Words’ Words without Walls Creative Writing Programs for Youth now boast author residencies in 12 educational settings in Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes counties.” Ellen Waterston, Executive Director.

EASTERN OREGON
Oregon Rural Action in La Grande is strengthening Eastern Oregon’s local food system through youth gardens and food policy councils, thanks in part to a $23,000 grant. As part of the organization’s efforts, they are connecting with other agencies to address food shortages and help people become more self-sufficient. The grant is through the Northeast Oregon Heritage Fund and the J.G. Edwards Fund.

“Thanks to the support of The Oregon Community Foundation, The Nature of Words’ Words without Walls Creative Writing Programs for Youth now boast author residencies in 12 educational settings in Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes counties.” Ellen Waterston, Executive Director.

METROPOLITAN PORTLAND
Police Activities League of Greater Portland was founded in 1989 to create solutions to the growing problem of gangs and violence among youth. The League recently received a $20,000 grant through the Nike Employee Grant Fund for low-income and at-risk children to attend summer day camp, offering sports, education and anti-gang programs at Portland State University.

NORTH COAST
OCF’s Better Nursing Home Fund awards grants for innovative and educational programs that improve the quality of life and care for nursing home residents. This spring, the Clatsop Care Center Health District in Astoria received $11,000 to support a healing garden and horticultural therapy program.

“Thanks to the support of The Oregon Community Foundation, The Nature of Words’ Words without Walls Creative Writing Programs for Youth now boast author residencies in 12 educational settings in Crook, Jefferson and Deschutes counties.” Ellen Waterston, Executive Director.

NORTHERN WILLAMETTE VALLEY
OCF’s Latino Partnership Program granted the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation $5,750 for the “Community Bridges” project, to convene Latino immigrants and OCF leaders to foster relationships and mutual understanding.
“We live in the same community but know very little about each other’s lives, neighborhoods and realities. The first “Community Bridges” group met together for three weekends and listened to each other’s stories, asked each other questions and explored each other’s worlds. To their surprise, they discovered they have more in common than they ever imagined.” Bruce Stefanik, Latino Partnership Program.

**SOUTHERN OREGON**

A $30,000 grant from the Reed and Carolee Walker Fund will help Medford’s Maslow Project meet the basic needs of homeless and impoverished school-aged youth. Maslow Project helps youth establish educational, employment and personal development goals while providing basic needs and wrap-around case-management services.

**SOUTHERN WILLAMETTE VALLEY**

The Oakland Booster Club is embarking on a campaign to replace the grandstands and concessions building at the only outdoor public facility in Oakland. The club received a $30,000 grant from the Crane Creek Family Fund, the Douglas Community Fund and the Swindells Family Fund to help.

“Our community is small but close-knit, we are in a depressed socio-economic area, and school grounds are a common gathering space for all walks of our community. We look forward to a showcase facility that our community can gather at with pride!” Sarah Henry-Patt, Oakland Booster Club President.

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**Community 101 Kicks Off Campaign to Raise $100,000**

Collaboration, critical thinking and civic engagement are at the root of Community 101, the classroom-based program that empowers high school students to work together to identify community needs and help respond. C101 is a program of The Oregon Community Foundation, with major support from the PGE Foundation.

Since its inception in 1997, C101 has engaged more than 8,000 high school students who have awarded more than $2.2 million to Oregon nonprofits addressing critical community needs such as homelessness, hunger and mental health.

This fall, former OCF board chairs Steve Corey of Pendleton and Mary Wilcox of Portland are co-chairing a campaign to raise $100,000, primarily from individuals and businesses, for C101 students to award to deserving nonprofits around the state.

For more information, please visit oregoncf.org/connect.
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The Foundation thanks all the Oregonians who have contributed to the OCF Administrative Fund in 2011. We invite others to join them. This support of the fund allows OCF to promote, develop and increase philanthropy in Oregon.
Early Childhood Education: A Lesson in Economics

Continued from page 1

hosted a summit on Sept. 29 for Douglas County business leaders, with opening remarks by Gov. John Kitzhaber. The governor’s new Early Learning Council will create a structure to integrate services and improve outcomes for young children and their families.

Other speakers at the summit included Ross Thompson, Ph.D., Department of Psychology, University of California, Davis, and Rob Grunewald, associate economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. The next day, Grunewald also spoke at an OCF-hosted luncheon in Portland.

Long-term studies on outcomes of quality early childhood education led economist Grunewald to conclude that the public should view investment in early childhood education as a high-yield economic development strategy: “We find that the return on early childhood development programs far exceeds the return on most projects that are currently funded as economic development.”

All three speakers emphasized research showing that a child’s quality of life and future contributions to society as an adult can be traced back to the first few years of life. Increasingly, business and community leaders recognize the following facts:

• Parents who are assured that their children are in high-quality, stable child care or preschool settings will be more productive workers.

• Children who receive care and education in an environment that meets best practice standards are more likely to become attentive students in school and productive workers as adults.

• Child care is a business, contributing to the local economy and creating jobs.

• Professionals are more likely to relocate to a community that offers high-quality options in child care and preschools for their children.

At the Roseburg summit, Douglas County Commissioner Doug Robertson invited attendees to participate in organizing “Douglas County Champions for Children.” Champions will convene later this fall to make plans and take action, thanks to a $100,000 grant from the Whipple Foundation Fund.

As Gov. Kitzhaber said, “Today, we need to stop talking about it and start doing something about it. This is about changing the future.”

For more information, please visit oregoncf.org/dcearlyinvest.

Linda Moore: Friend of OCF, Advocate for Education

Linda Moore, Bend resident and statewide education advocate, died Oct. 23 following a 10-month battle with brain cancer. Linda served on the OCF board of directors from 2002 to 2010 and was head of the education committee for six of those years.

Linda grew up in Portland, attended the University of Oregon, earned a degree in education and then taught high school and community college. Her years in the classroom made her a lifelong advocate for education.

Linda helped develop the ASPIRE program, an OCF-sponsored mentor program that is now in high schools around the state. She also helped create Saturday Academy, which connected students with experts in a variety of professions for after-school and weekend learning.

“We are going to miss Linda terribly,” OCF President Greg Chaillé said. “She always brightened our lives and she brightened the lives of children.”
Ron and Karel Bennett were successful California property developers who moved to Oregon in the late 1980s. After Ron passed away, Karel asked her legal advisers Bernie Moore (pictured at right) and Stephen Jamieson to create a charitable trust that would fund a technical school near Shady Cove.

When Bernie and Stephen found that this plan wasn’t feasible, they pursued Karel’s second choice: a scholarship fund for Jackson County college sophomores seeking engineering or business degrees. “Ron had an engineering background and Karel had a business background, so the goal was to educate kids in the same fields,” Bernie explains.

As an estate and tax attorney, Stephen knew that OCF was the best choice to manage the fund. “We weren’t qualified to run it,” Bernie says. “Going with OCF was a no-brainer.”

Because Bernie had known the Bennetts well, OCF asked him to chair the scholarship committee. In this capacity, he sees firsthand how the Bennett Fund changes people’s lives, not just by helping them achieve their goals, but also by encouraging them to set new ones.

“We awarded $11,000 to a single mother who’d been working hard toward an associate degree,” Bernie recalls. “We were so impressed with her, we actually asked her for more applications. We said, ‘Don’t stop with the associate degree. You’ve got what it takes to go further, and we want you to go out and do it.’”

In its first three years, the Bennett Fund has awarded almost $700,000. “OCF makes it painless,” Bernie says. “They give us everything we need to make good decisions. They make it very easy for us.”