



**The Distinguished Educators Council endorses
Senate Bill 755
The Minority Teacher Act**

Senate Bill 755 aligns with the DEC's fifth recommendation in its report, Making Oregon a Great Place to Teach.

The 1991 Legislature set a goal that Oregon's number of minority educators would be proportional to Oregon's number of minority K-12 students by 2001. Oregon fell woefully short of that goal. The Council supports SB 755, which aspires to raise the number of minority educators and the number of minorities in teacher preparation programs ten percent each by 2015, and to report progress each interim. The Council emphasizes, though, that this simply keeps the issue in conversation, and that money to support recruitment, training and support for minority educators, cultural competency training for ALL educators, and identification of best practices in supporting minority educators, are equally important.

Who is the Distinguished Educators Council?

In March 2012 the Chalkboard Project invited teachers across Oregon to apply to serve on a new Distinguished Educators Council. In May Chalkboard selected 13 Oregon teachers recognized for their expertise and success to serve on the Council. Chalkboard asked the council to develop recommendations to support and strengthen teaching in Oregon's K-12 classrooms.

In September the council made public five recommendations, each accompanied by a series of objectives and suggested actions. The five recommendations:

1. Emphasize classroom experience and effective mentors in teacher preparation.
2. Provide meaningful, ongoing evaluations of teachers that contribute to improved teaching practices and increased student achievement.
3. Ensure personalized professional learning opportunities tailored to teachers' needs and the students they teach.
4. Establish new leadership opportunities and career pathways for the most effective teachers.
5. Ensure that Oregon's teachers can address the needs of diverse students.

The Council's Vision for Supporting and Strengthening Teaching in Oregon

In developing its recommendations, the Council considered all phases of teacher careers, from recruitment and selection, to preparation, to hiring and induction, to professional development, to retention and reward. While the Council landed on five distinct recommendations, the Council recognizes that each recommendation is a piece of a larger whole, and that true success in supporting and strengthening teaching in Oregon will require coordination and alignment across the teaching continuum.

Council Endorsements of 2013 Legislation

After review of hundreds of education-related bills before the 2013 Oregon legislature, the Council identified seven bills that align with the Council's recommendations and the Council wishes to endorse. Endorsement means unanimous support of all 13 Council members.

The Council also believes that a coordinating structure for investments in the professional corps of educators would be a positive step forward and, should one be created, it should include these bills or funding requests.

Allan Bruner

Colton High School, Colton School District
Oregon Teacher of the Year, 2006

Lionel Clegg

Woodlawn School, Portland Public Schools
Founder of Boys of Distinction, 2002

Kelly Devlin

Teacher on Special Assignment,
David Douglas School District
*Milken Family Foundation Educator Award,
2000*

Donna DuBois

Camas Ridge Community School,
Eugene School District
Oregon Teacher of the Year, 2010

Nubia Green

Chávez Elementary School,
Salem-Keizer School District
*University of Colorado "Literacy Squared"
Educator*

Michael Mann

Dexter McCarty Middle School, Gresham-
Barlow School District
National Board Certification, 2000

Sean McGeeney

Hamilton Creek School,
Lebanon Community School District
*Founding Co-Chair, Lebanon Portfolio Project,
2011-12*

Mary McGinnis

Tillamook Options Program School,
Tillamook School District
*Missouri STARR (Select Teachers as Regional
Resources), 2008-10*

Jessica Smith

West Albany High School,
Greater Albany Public Schools
Proficiency Coach, Business Education Compact

Karen Stiner

High Desert Middle School,
Bend-La Pine School District
*Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator
Fellowship, 2007-2009*

Tandy Wolf

Cedaroak Park Primary School,
West Linn-Wilsonville School District
*OnPoint Teacher of Excellence Educator of the
Year, 2010*

Colleen Works

Corvallis High School, Corvallis School District
Oregon Teacher of the Year, 2011

Kevin Zerzan

Gladstone High School, Gladstone School
District
*Milken Family Foundation Educator Award,
2009*

Council Staff: Todd Jones

West Linn High School, West Linn-Wilsonville
School District