

I never had a teacher of color, K-12 through a doctoral program. I'm an older white woman who has come to know the importance of teachers and professors of color in classrooms clearly for students of color but also for white students. I know many have been working hard to recruit and prepare more teachers and administrators of color in Oregon but we still have a very very long way to go. To protect the progress we've made we must change school policies of "last in, first out" in times of cutbacks. Diversity in our teaching force MUST be protected for all of our sakes. I was involved with the founding of the Portland Teachers Program in the Portland metro area, a program that is now over 30 yrs. old and has placed more than 240 teachers of color in our schools. Unless many current school personnel policies are changed, we will lose many of these teachers. I believe one of best and most effective ways to become an antiracist is to stand up for protecting teacher diversity and to advocate for more teachers of color in the future.