

OREGON NORTHWEST BLACK PIONEERS



CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OREGON'S AFRICAN-AMERICAN PIONEERS

March 14, 2007

The Honorable Victor Atiyeh
7690 SW Fairmoor
Portland, OR 97225-2742

APR 17 2007
Governor Atiyeh

ACCEPT BY PHONE
APR 06 2007
Governor Atiyeh

Dear Governor Atiyeh:

Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers is a nonprofit organization founded in 1993 to recognize and commemorate the contributions of African Americans in the historical development of Oregon. Our founders are Senator Jackie Winters, Dr. Carole Davis, former Salem-Keizer School District Deputy Superintendent, and the late David Burgess, long time Portland and Salem activist. Our programs include, research and documentation of often overlooked and forgotten Oregon history, and educational scholarships. We have awarded over \$20,000 in scholarships, helping high school students from all backgrounds attend college and other institutions of continued learning. We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors.

Recently we placed a monument in Salem's Pioneer Cemetery identifying and honoring those known and unknown Black Pioneers buried there. It is humbling for us to do so in their memory. We are in the first phase of developing an Oregon Black History guide book that will be available in October to the general public, historical societies, and schools. Its initial focus will be on Marion and Polk Counties. Each year we will update this guide until we have covered all counties in our great state with its rich African American history.

As we discover this rich history, it leads us to discussions of an African American Museum to be located in our Capitol City of Salem. We recognize that this is a daunting project which will require a broad base effort by many people. To assist in helping us with this effort, we are assembling an initial exploratory committee to further discuss the feasibility of an African American Museum in Salem. From this discussion, we hope to launch into the actual effort of bringing this to reality.

On behalf of Oregon Northwest Black Pioneers, I extend this invitation to you to become a part of this great effort. You have been a true Pioneer in this State and we would be

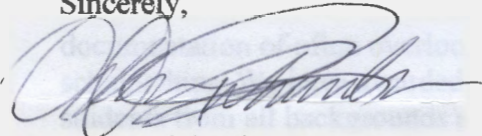
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honored if you would be a part of this effort. We understand you must receive many request for your time; however, this is a unique situation and one we feel would be very rewarding for you and for us as well. In addition, we plan to have an Honorary Advisory Board. We also would be honored if you would like to be involved with either of these Boards. An African American Museum Foundation Committee, under the umbrella of ONBP, will be formed after the other Boards have had a chance to meet and pursue these ideas. We hope to have confirmation from the invited participants (15) by the end of March and a meeting date scheduled in April. We will have phone conferencing capabilities in case Board members cannot personally attend so they can participate in the discussions.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss any of these further. I can be reached at the following telephone numbers 503-540-4063 (B), 503-581-9151 (H), 503-269-1023 (C) or by email at blackpioneers@qwest.net.

We look forward to hearing from you about these exciting plans and your potential participation.

Sincerely,



Willie Richardson
Chairperson