

College of Urban and Public Affairs
NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW LEADERSHIP OREGON CREATED FOR COLLEGE WOMEN
Portland State University Establishes Summer Mentorship Program

Portland – September 9, 2003 – A nationally recognized program to find, mentor and train future women leaders has added a new Oregon affiliate at the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at the College of Urban and Public Affairs.

NEW (National Education for Women's) Leadership Oregon will create and host a six-day training program at Portland State University every summer to introduce college women to public leadership. Those chosen will be taught and mentored by many past and current women office holders.

"This program is unique because it demystifies the political realm and its occupants, and because it gives women the hands-on training necessary to lead," said Melody Rose, the Executive Director of NEW Leadership Oregon. "Women are currently underrepresented in state and national government, so we look forward to creating leaders excited about adding their voice to the process." Dr. Rose is a political science professor at the Hatfield School.

The program is patterned after a project created at the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University in New Jersey in 1991. The program is designed to educate, empower and encourage college women to become politically active and take on leadership roles on their campuses and in their communities. It has extended to schools in six states, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, Oklahoma, Washington, and now Oregon.

"Oregon has been a national leader in terms of women's electoral representation," says Sasha Patterson, NEW Leadership Program Coordinator at CAWP. "For the last five years Oregon has led the country as one of the ten states with the highest percentages of women state legislators. Portland State has a wonderful resource of women leaders to serve as mentors and role models to the students in NEW Leadership Oregon, including Governor Barbara Roberts, a great friend of CAWP, who was a one of only three women governors when she was elected in 1991."

"NEW Leadership is a tremendous program, with a proven national track record of building women leaders," said Governor Roberts, Chair of the advisory board for NEW Leadership Oregon. "The Hatfield School of Government at Portland State is the ideal location for this superb leadership school."

The goals for NEW Leadership Oregon are: to develop women leaders, create collaborative partnerships with political women, encourage women's participation in politics and to inspire women to take responsibility for political change.

The NEW Leadership Oregon program will hold its inaugural session in June 2004 at the College of Urban and Public Affairs on the PSU campus. Thirty to 35 participants will be chosen from colleges and universities from throughout Oregon.

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NEW Leadership Oregon

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