

Oregon GEAR UP Newsletter January 21, 2004

Previous editions can be found on the Oregon GEAR UP website at www.ous.edu/gearup . While you're there check out some of the amazing resources assembled for your viewing pleasure!

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1. Horace Mann Offers Scholarships for Educators to Take College Courses

Deadline: May 15, 2004

The Horace Mann Scholarship Program for Educators, a philanthropic program of the Horace Mann Educators Corporation (<http://horacemann.com/>), provides funds to help public and private school teachers continue their education.

In 2004, the program will offer thirty-six scholarships totaling \$30,000. The awards include one four-year \$5,000 award; fifteen two-year \$1,000 awards; and twenty one-time \$500 awards. Scholarships may be used to cover tuition, fees, and other educational expenses.

To be eligible, an applicant must be an educator employed by a U.S. public or private school district or U.S. public or private college/university and currently enrolled or planning to enter a two- or four-year accredited college or university. The applicant must have a minimum of two years' teaching experience.

Complete program guidelines and an online application form are available at the Horace Mann Web site.

RFP Link: <http://horacemann.com/edscholarship/>

2. Wal-Mart and Sam's Club to Award Sam Walton Community Scholarships

Deadline: February 1, 2004

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.(<http://walmartfoundation.org/>) has announced that it will award up to \$7 million in Sam Walton Community Scholarships in 2004. Through the program, every Wal-Mart and Sam's Club location will have two \$1,000 Sam Walton Community Scholarships to award. The scholarships are funded by the Wal-Mart/Sam's Club Foundation.

Scholarships will be awarded based on academic record,

ACT/SAT test scores, community and extracurricular involvement, work experience, and financial need.

All scholarship recipients will automatically be entered into a state competition for a chance to win an additional \$4,000 scholarship, for a total award of \$5,000. All state winners will then be automatically entered into a national competition, with a chance to win an additional \$20,000 scholarship, for a total scholarship award of \$25,000.

Applications are available at Wal-Mart and Sam's Club locations and from high school counselors. See the Wal-Mart/Sam's Club Foundation Web site for further information. (Note: Scholarship application forms are not available online.)

RFP Link: <http://walmartfoundation.org/>

3. Building Trust with Schools and Diverse Families

Northwest Regional Educational Labs publication is available at the following website:

<http://www.nwrel.org/request/2003dec/index.html>

4. Closing the Achievement Gap Conference

On Saturday, February 28, 2004, Superintendent Castillo will be hosting the Closing the Achievement Gap Conference at Portland State University. The idea for this conference was developed by the Superintendent's Underrepresented Minority Achievement Advisory Team. This conference will highlight leaders whose classrooms, schools and districts are meeting the challenge of closing the achievement gap. These people are putting great ideas into action that are yielding real results for Oregon's students.

If you are interested in attending the conference, registration forms will be available online shortly. For more information, please go the Closing the Achievement Gap Conference homepage at:

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/gap/>

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