

SKCE

The Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality



www.skcequality.org

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GANG PREVENTION support groups are a big draw for parents in NE Salem.

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THE OREGON PARENT EDUCATION CENTER

is open and ready for your visit! Complete with a library, meeting space, computers, resources, and peer counseling.

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The POP has the Recipe for Growing Meaningful Parental Involvement in Oregon

Thanks to many successful partnerships, the SKCE Parent Organizing Project (POP) offered 51 workshops in Salem-Keizer schools last year and supported and mentored districts and community based organizations throughout Oregon as they adopted our Educate and Inspire curriculum.

What's the recipe for meaningful parental involvement in Oregon schools? Start with phone calls and mailings to ensure strong attendance, then mix hot meals, quality, age appropriate childcare, accessible locations, Spanish, Popular Education and trained parent facilitators and add interesting and relevant content, lots of parent to parent participation and clear next steps and mix it all together. Repeat! Celebrate! Share the recipe!

After years of experience working with parents, the POP has learned how to successfully motivate parents to get involved. Our goal is to give parents the information they need to understand the education system in the USA and what they can do to help children succeed.

"We want parents to be partners with educators.", says **Javier Quiroz, POP co-coordinator with Maria Mendoza.** "We let them know that parents are expected to ask their kids about their day and to keep in contact with teachers; and what laws like NCLB mean for them."

The POP develops parent leaders, grows meaningful parental involvement, and fosters parent/teacher collaborations. The eleven parent facilitators are the heart of the POP and have received hundreds of hours of professional development on popular education, teaching, and facilitation techniques. The parents all started as workshop participants, then began volunteering with SKCE, and finally joined the

facilitation team. The parent facilitators have the same experiences and face the same struggles as the parents in the workshop - that camaraderie is part of the recipe for success.

The parent facilitators travel throughout Oregon as part of the **Training of Trainers (TOT)** program. This past year, facilitators traveled as far as Ontario, Oregon to offer the 1.5 day TOT mini-conference. The team models successful workshops and provides ongoing mentoring and technical support for communities developing their own facilitation team. As new units are developed the parent facilitators share the information and provide support.

Next year the team plans on working in even more communities to continue to share the recipe for academic success.



Salem/Keizer Coalition for Equality

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

Can you believe SKCE has been working and changing lives in Salem/Keizer, throughout Oregon, and nationally for the past 11 years? All of our successes wouldn't be possible without the incredible friendships and partnerships that we have been developing and nurturing.

*Here in Salem, SKCE is one of many organizations working hard to improve NE Salem for children and families. We are one of the many incredible organizations in the Catholic Community Services **Fostering Hope Initiative**. All of the organizations in the initiative are working together to reduce the need for foster care.*

*SKCE continues to work together with the **Salem-Keizer School District** and **Salem-Keizer Education Foundation** to increase meaningful parental involvement. We were excited to partner with the Marion County Commission on Children and Families and S-K School District on the **9th Annual Heart of Literacy Parenting Conference**. SKCE is proud to support the McKay Area Coalition for Student Success (MACSS).*

*Statewide, SKCE is partnering with **Portland Public Schools** to share our program with parents in the Portland area and with **Casa Latinos Unidos** in Corvallis and Albany.*

*Last year the POP team worked hard in the Medford/Jackson County area to help develop and train parent facilitators. We also partnered with the **Oregon Migrant Education Service Center** to provide four Training of Trainer mini-conferences for parents and staff in the 18 Education Service District regions for 80 people.*

*Nationwide, two parent facilitators presented at the **NCLR** advocacy conference in Washington DC in March, 2010. Our partnership with NCLR also led to a new partnership in California. I have been working with an NCLR Charter School in Los Angeles to help them adopt the Educate and Inspire curriculum. Our goal is to create a national **Latino Parent Network**.*

Our commitment to our community - even in these tough economic times - remains strong, and we look forward to continue working together to close the opportunity and achievement gaps.

-Eduardo Angulo

New Workshops Coming Soon to a School Near You!

SKCE has offered the original nine *Educate and Inspire* workshops at schools in Salem/Keizer for years. Thousands of parents have attended workshops and requested additional information on parenting strategies and communication. Last year, the parent facilitators and professional educators **Sara Czaky** and **Aurora Cedillo** began developing seven new units.

Initial conversations with parents in the immigrant community brought up the importance of parents working together and providing consistent messages for kids. The new workshops help parents understand the importance of consistent messages, offer age-appropriate parenting strategies and information on the developmental stages kids go through, and help parents understand how to keep engaged with their kids to help them do well in school.

A workshop on gang prevention is also being developed. All of the workshops will be and piloted and revised during the 2010-11 and 2011-12 school years.



Our parent team working on developing new units.

Parenting Now Classes a Success

Ana and **Sofia**, two SKCE parent facilitators, received the *Parenting Now* training in partnership with Catholic Community Services this

past summer. They offered the first workshop series (13 units) at the Christian Center in NE Salem for 15 parents this fall. The series is for parents with children ages 0-8 and helps strengthen families and promote the well being of children by offering techniques to deal with stress, communication strategies and much more. Parents were very excited about the workshops and celebrated with a potluck dinner. The facilitators are mid-way through the winter session and plan on offering the workshops again in the spring.

Gang Prevention Parent Support Group

Spanish speaking parents in NE Salem asked for help keeping their kids out of gangs - and SKCE delivered with bi-monthly support groups, peer counseling, and resource assistance.

Gang recruitment and violence are part of the reality many students face in schools throughout Oregon. Often parents are unaware of the signs their children are getting involved - or already involved - in gangs. SKCE, together with **Mano a Mano**, is offering gang prevention support groups to help parents understand gangs and what they can do to help their children avoid getting involved.

The support groups are held at the **Oregon Parent Education Center** two Saturdays a month from 10-12 pm. The support groups are held in Spanish and are a great opportunity for parents to share their

experience and learn more from each other and education experts in the community. For more information contact Javier Quiroz,

jquiroz@skcequality.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2009-10

We finished our four-year collaboration with **Education Northwest's PIRC** to test, evaluate and revise the nine unit Spanish *Educate and Inspire* curriculum in the field. Results and feedback were very positive.

The **POP** offered 51 workshops in Salem-Keizer and impacted 681 parents last year. This school year we have offered 24 workshops so far. In **Jackson County**, 14 parent facilitators from five school districts are offering *Educate and Inspire* workshops for parents. SKCE provides ongoing support and mentoring.

Our core team of **11 parent facilitators** received 679 hours of professional development and training last year (and 500 the year before).

The **Oregon TOT program** continues to work in key communities in western Oregon and, in early April, contracted with the **Oregon Migrant Education Program** to provide the introductory 1.5-day TOT workshops to Migrant Parent Outreach Coordinators and the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) members for the 18 regions in Oregon. The four TOTs were completed in October and trained 80 participants.

SKCE contracted with an experienced curriculum writer and parent trainer to adapt the *Educate and Inspire* curriculum for **African American parents**. Pilots are planned for this summer.

Your support makes a difference for families in our community. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to SKCE to continue our work in Salem and throughout Oregon.

Video Production Class for Teens

SKCE director Eduardo Angulo wanted to find something to offer teens to grow their skills, give back to their community, and provide a little extra spending money. At the same time he needed people to video tape the POP workshops to help the facilitators as a training tool and capture professional development trainings for facilitators who could not attend. With the support of **CCTV staff** and more planning, SKCE soon had a team of youth videotaping, editing and presenting their own short films and supporting the Coalition.

Additional youth participated in a video production program over the past two years. Twelve youth graduated in December. The graduates continue to meet and formed the SKCE Film Group. Check out their work, mission and more at: www.skcefilm.blogspot.com.

McKay Area Coalition for Student Success

The McKay Area Coalition for Student Success (MACSS) is a community partnership involving civic leaders, the Salem-Keizer School District, the faith community, businesses, non-profits, colleges and universities, and other segments of the community investing in positive outcomes for K-12 students. Originally launched in 2006, MACSS was retooled in 2009 to focus on seven schools and three goals areas.

The mission of MACSS is to increase community involvement that supports the academic success of elementary, middle and high school students in the McKay footprint.

During the 2009-10 school year, the MACSS partners conducted targeted outreach to the business community, churches, and colleges/universities.

A total of 121 volunteers were placed, 68 of them in ongoing programs. Volunteers contributed 1,251 hours in support of 2,050 McKay area students.

No Child Left Behind Parenting Conference Gets a New Name

SKCE first partnered with the Salem-Keizer School District to offer the No Child Left Behind Parenting Conference nine years ago. This year, the conference had a new name - **The Heart of Literacy** - and was sponsored by the Salem-Keizer School District, Marion County Children and Families Commission, and SKCE. The conference was Saturday, February 26th at McKay High School. 100s of parents attended.

The focus was on offering parents ideas and information on supporting their children in school. SKCE offered four workshops in Spanish and had a resource table. As always, our parent volunteers called Spanish speaking parents and mailed flyers to recruit parents for the event.

Visit the Oregon Parent Education Center

Have you had the chance to attend an event at the new **Oregon Parent Education Center** - which is embedded in the **Jim Ramsey III Community Center**? Parents and community members are using the library, open wireless computers and meeting space. **Mano a Mano** offers computer, English and US Naturalization classes. They also offer free referral services, food boxes, guitar, and Mexican dances for our children. Support groups and events are regularly offered. **Stop by and check us out!**



Contact SKCE

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In February, the SKCE team attended a hearing in support of legislation to improve education in Oregon.

Education

Leadership

Parental Involvement

The SKCE Mission

Equity, Accountability, and Unity

To Promote Equity for Our Children in the Salem/Keizer Public School District and in the Community.

To Advocate for the Respect of Civil and Human Rights of All People in Our Community.

To Seek Accountability from All Salem/Keizer Community Administrators, Policy Makers, Staff and Employees.

To Unite the Salem/Keizer Community and Speak with ONE Voice to END Discrimination and Inequality.

We Support and Network with all Statewide Organizations and Educational Advocates who Support OUR Mission.



Things were busy at the 9th Annual Heart of Literacy Parent Conference!