

PRESS RELEASE

9/08/2008

ANNUAL STATEWIDE MENTORING AWARDS ANNOUNCED

**COMMITTED PARTNERS FOR YOUTH, EUGENE, OREGON
TO BE AWARDED THE OREGON MENTORING PROGRAM OF THE YEAR
AWARD AT OREGON MENTORS ANNUAL RECOGNITION & AWARDS
LUNCHEON**

**WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2008
NOON - 1:30PM
GOVERNOR HOTEL BALLROOM
PORTLAND, OREGON**

The statewide partnership for mentoring programs, **Oregon Mentors (oregonmentors.org)** recognizes exceptional matches, programs, individuals, and partners each year. These awards will be presented at the Annual Recognition and Awards Luncheon on September 17th, 2008 in Portland's Governor Hotel Ballroom. **This year Committed Partners For Youth (committedpartners.org), a local non profit agency of Eugene an Springfield, Oregon has been selected as 2008's Outstanding Mentor Program.** This event brings hundreds of business, nonprofit, and youth program leaders together to celebrate how mentoring makes a difference in both youth and mentors' lives. During the luncheon, notable honorary co-chairs will present statewide mentoring awards.

Co-Chairs presenting For 2008 will be: Senator Kate Brown of the Oregon State Senate, Greg Oden of the Portland Trail Blazers and Dr. Preston Pulliams, President, Portland Community College.

This past year has been tremendously rewarding for Committed Partners For Youth as they have been nationally recognized and honored this year. **CPY's TRUE Friends Program** serving children of incarcerated parents **received two national Mentoring Excellence Awards** from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services' Administration of Children and Families for their mentors Sean Hahn and Gretchen Duerst. CPY mentor Gretchen Duerst and her mentee Aron (age 12) were flown to Washington D.C. twice in response to the award. During one of these visits, both Aron and Gretchen were invited to speak at a special round table meeting of the White House of Faith-based and Community Initiatives in celebration of National Mentoring Month in January.

CPY gained national recognition again at the **2008 HAY (Helping America's Youth) Conference** in Portland. Former CPY mentor June Sedarbaum and CPY youth alumni Tifani Lauzon made presentations about how mentoring had made a difference in their lives. Both received praise and attention from First Lady Laura Bush. Attended by about 150 mentors, educators and youth, the conference highlighted the work of several Oregon programs that help guide young people toward adulthood, including Committed Partners for Youth.

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