



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, Governor

Oregon Commission for Women
"Advocating Equality and Diversity"
1819 SW 5th Ave., Portland, OR 97201
O 503.302.9725/F 503.473.8519
Email: oaco.mail@state.or.us
Website: www.oregon.gov/Women

MEDIA RELEASE 2/12/14, CONTACT OCFW 503.302.9725

OCFW Announces Four Recipients of the Oregon Women of Achievement Awards

We are proud to announce the recipients of the [Oregon Commission for Women's \(OCFW\) Women of Achievement Awards for 2013](#):

GUN DENHART is an innovative business leader who never saw a tension between doing well and doing good. The company she founded in Portland in 1983, Hanna Andersson, has been a pioneer in social responsibility, including family-friendly workplace policies and a policy of donating 5% of pretax profits to groups working for the welfare of children. In addition, Hanna Andersson has been recognized five times on the prestigious Working Mother magazine list of the 100 Best Companies for Working Mothers. Gun is a board member of Mercy Corps, Ecotrust, and Stand for Children, and a number of other organizations, and has been a pillar of Oregon's progressive business community for many years.

MARY KATHERINE "KAPPY" EATON has been a force for Oregon women's rights and clean government for more than sixty years. Using Common Cause, the League of Women Voters, and the American Association of University Women as her platforms, she has fought for the wellbeing of women, children, and families, as well as enhanced protections for widows under Oregon law. She has traveled to Hungary and Bosnia under the auspices of the US State Department to help ensure free and fair elections in those nations, and was called upon to assist not one, but two Oregon Secretaries of State to improve the quality of elections at home.

CECILIA GIRON, born in Oaxaca, Mexico, has overcome innumerable social, economic, and cultural challenges and has now been mentoring girls facing similar challenges for fifteen years. With the Oregon State University Extension Service 4-H Tech Wizards Program, with the Washington County Web Wizards and Computer Technology Project, Robotics and Video Arts, then the Oregon Historical Society's Portraits of Oregon Project, and now with Adelante Chicas, she has provided exposure to nontraditional skills and opportunities, helping girls develop skills and confidence, stay in school, and look forward to brighter futures.

SHEILA NORTH retired in January 2014 after seventeen years as Executive Director of De Paul Treatment Centers, the largest nonprofit addiction treatment center in Oregon. During her tenure she earned a reputation as a compelling and tireless advocate for appropriate treatment resources for people suffering from addiction regardless of their economic status, including programs designed for the special needs of expectant mothers and youth. She also proved herself a gifted leader of a talented and diverse staff dedicated to the wellbeing of those who come to De Paul for treatment.

ORCommission for Women

Chair:

Stephanie Vardavas

Vice Chair:

Jeanne Burch

Commissioners:

Megan Jacquot
Jessica Rodriguez-Montegna
Dr. Barbara Spencer
Mariahm Stephenson
Stephanie Swanson

Legislative Liaisons:

Sen. Laurie Monnes
Anderson
Rep. Betty Komp

Staff:

Lucy Baker, Administrator
Nancy Kramer, Executive Asst.

Each of these leaders has long maintained a high standard of civic service and all are well recognized in the community. OCFW Chair Stephanie Vardavas commented, "We are thrilled to be able to honor such dynamic and accomplished women."

The honorees will receive their awards in a ceremony hosted by Secretary of State Kate Brown on April 5, 2014.

Since 1985 the Oregon Commission for Women has presented the Woman of Achievement Award to women in Oregon for leadership and success in their area of expertise, promoting the status of women in society, reflecting a commitment to equity and diversity, and serving as exemplary role models.

Tickets to the event are available at <http://friendsoforegonwomen.org/whats-happening/women-of-achievement-awards/>

The Oregon Commission for Women was legislatively established in 1983 to work for women's equality. The commission does this by advocating for women in the community, providing information on women to the governor and state legislature, serving as a link for women to state agencies, and providing services to individual women in Oregon.