OCFW Announces Recipient for the Annual Oregon Women of Achievement Awards

The Oregon Commission for Women (OCFW) is proud to announce Susan Stoltenberg, Executive Director of the YWCA of Greater Portland, as its 2018 Woman of Achievement awardee. This award recognizes her leadership in developing programs to address the needs of affordable housing for women and their families.

Recognized as a leader for equity and social justice, Susan Stoltenberg has served as executive director for many non-profit agencies over the past 35 years. Today, she leads Oregon’s only YWCA. She is passionately dedicated to its mission of eliminating racism, empowering women, and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. Susan is a visionary leader dedicated to creating a community where all people have opportunities for living safe, fulfilling lives of self-determination. Understanding that domestic violence survivors need permanent housing, Susan refocused the YWCA’s Domestic Violence Program from shelter services to providing housing advocacy and rental assistance. Under her leadership, the YWCA launched Communities of Restoration and Healing, a shared housing program which operates in five locations throughout Portland, providing affordable housing for survivors of domestic violence and their children, formerly incarcerated mothers and their children, and elderly women.

The Oregon Commission for Women believes Susan Stoltenberg is a dynamic leader and role model with a strong record of service to the community. OCFW Chair Dr. Barbara Ramírez Spencer commented, “We thank Susan for her contributions to promote equity and justice for all women in Oregon. She exemplifies the Oregon motto – ‘She flies with her own wings.’” The honoree will receive her award at the Women’s History Month Proclamation ceremony at the State Capitol in Salem in March 2019.

Since 1985 the Oregon Commission for Women has honored women in Oregon with its Women of Achievement Award. The award recognizes women whose leadership and accomplishments have promoted the status of women in Oregon and reflected a commitment to equity and diversity. The honoree is a leader among her peers and an exemplary role model for women and girls in Oregon. To date over 95 women have been recognized with this award.
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 supporting policy research on women in Oregon.

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