

achievement gap. We were one of six schools in the state to receive it.

It has certainly helped our teachers feel good about themselves. It was a real honor. I must say the teachers have been working hard. They are dedicated and they like being here.

Kathy Hagerty is a 20-year veteran teacher at Vernon.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Celebrating Student Success Awards

Instituted in 2004, the Celebrating Student Success Award recognizes leadership within Oregon's K-12 public school system and highlights schools and school districts that have made significant progress toward closing the achievement gap between minority and non-minority students and between disadvantaged students and their peers. Each recipient receives an unrestricted \$2,000 grant award.

Stretching from one end of Oregon to the other, the 2005 recipients of the Celebrating Student Success awards

all face enormous challenges. And each has a unique formula for success. Yet despite their differences, these remarkable schools share an unshakable conviction that, given a thoughtful and rigorous plan of action and a dedicated staff of educators to carry it out, all children, regardless of their color or ethnicity or their family incomes, can excel. Profiles of recipients and finalists can be viewed at the Oregon Department of Education website (<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=187>)

The 2005 Celebrating Student Success Award Recipients:

Beaver Acres Elementary, Beaverton
 Fairfield Elementary, Eugene
 Nyssa School District, Nyssa
 (one elementary school, middle school and high school)

Rocky Heights Elementary, Hermiston
 Vernon Elementary, Portland
 White City Elementary, Eagle Point

Promising Practices Award for demonstrating great potential:

Hosford Middle School, Portland

Student Success Award Finalists:

Astor Elementary, Portland
 Echo Shaw Elementary, Forest Grove
 Lake Labish Elementary, Salem-Keizer School District
 Mountain View Elementary, Eagle Point

Russell Academy of Academic Achievement,
 Parkrose School District
 West Powellhurst Elementary,
 David Douglas School District