December 2011

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) supports PSU women and is a catalyst for positive change and healthy diversity. The Commission is comprised of PSU students, staff, and faculty members, and participation on the Commission is open to people of all genders.

The CSW is seeking interested students to submit an essay for the annual essay contest. Selected essay winners will receive a money reward as well as mentioned at the 2012 President’s Diversity Awards happening May 16, 2012 in the Smith Memorial Student Union Ballroom.

**Essay Topic:**
In celebration of women’s winning the right to vote in Oregon in 1912, PSU's Center for Women, Politics & Policy at the Hatfield School of Government states:

*Women have helped to shape Oregon for generations-through those pioneers who crossed the plains surviving incredible hardships, to those who risked their lives in the struggle to win equality, who, despite sexism, racism and adversity-created thriving communities. Oregon history has been shaped by women from all backgrounds and origins and as we stand now on the shoulders of giants, we can reflect on the strength of Oregon’s original state motto, “She Flies With Her Own Wings”. [http://cwpp.pdx.edu](http://cwpp.pdx.edu)*

Write about the Oregon woman/women responsible for influencing (despite hardship, adversity, sexism, or racism) the creation of a thriving community in which you feel you are a member.

**Guidelines:**
- 3-5 pages
- Typed
- Double spaced
- Submit to: diversity@pdx.edu

**Submissions should be in by January 18th, 2012 by 5pm.**