

Oregon's 2007 Outstanding Older Worker sought

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Experience Works, the nation's largest training and employment organization for mature workers, is searching for Oregon's outstanding older worker. Experience Works Prime Time Awards program is part of Experience Works' national effort to raise awareness of the contributions made by older individuals and to break down barriers associated with the hiring of all older workers. Outstanding older workers from every state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico will be honored in Washington, D.C., and in their home states for their contributions to the workforce and local communities. Home Instead Senior Care, an outstanding employer of older workers in 2006, is sponsoring this year's search. Nominees or applicants must be 65 years of age or older, a resident of Oregon, currently employed, and working at least 20 hours each week for pay. The honoree must be willing and able to travel to Washington, D.C., in October for the Prime Time Award events. The visit will include meetings with congressional representatives, a tour of the city's landmarks, and the awards banquet and ceremony. Honorees have an opportunity to meet, share their stories, and celebrate their accomplishments. Family, friends or colleagues can send in a nomination, or older workers can self-nominate. Oregon's outstanding older worker in 2006 was 84-year-old Mary Bradford, newsroom librarian for the Grants Pass Daily Courier. In 1984, after retiring from 17 years as an aerospace industry executive secretary, Ms. Bradford took a job proofreading for the Courier. Promoted to librarian in 1986, Ms. Bradford does a wide variety of tasks, and over the years she has also improved the newspaper's filing and retrieval system, and reorganized deteriorating archive materials to protect them from further damage. Family and community are very important to Ms. Bradford, who, after raising three children, now provides a home for her teenaged granddaughter. Her volunteer work has ranged from assisting orphans and wounded soldiers in Japan from 1949 to 1951, to more recently helping at her local library and serving on the Grants Pass City Budget Committee. The search for America's Oldest Worker for 2007 is also under way, as is the search for outstanding employers of older workers. Last year, 104-year-old Waldo McBurney, beekeeper and author from Quinter, Kansas, was named America's Oldest Worker. An online nomination form or a printed nomination form can be accessed at www.experienceworks.org. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2007. Experience Works is a national, nonprofit organization that provides training and employment services for mature workers. Established in 1965, Experience Works reaches more than 125,000 mature individuals in all 50 states and Puerto Rico each year. Home Instead Senior Care is the world's largest provider of comprehensive companionship and home care services for seniors. For more information visit www.homeinstead.com.

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