
SMART Introduces New Board Members

Three new board members to help with goal of bringing joy of reading to students

Portland, 25 October 2007 – As the new school year gets under way, SMART (Start Making A Reader Today) has appointed three new board members to contribute to the organization's vision of an Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed.

"I am very excited about the addition of all three new members," said Linda Wright, chair of SMART's Board of Directors. "They each bring a significant amount of experience and leadership and I am confident they will help SMART continue with the mission of encouraging young children to love reading."

SMART has appointed the following individuals to the Board of Directors:

Ryan Killgore is the division manager for U.S. Bank and is in charge of community banking for the Pacific West division. Killgore is a member of the Greater Bend Rotary Club. He was a past president of the Columbia County Rotary Club and the St. Helens/Scappoose Chamber of Commerce.

"I believe we should do whatever it takes on a preventative basis to help young children become successful," said Killgore. "I've seen the joy that reading brings to children who participate in SMART. To me this is a win-win scenario in which both the child and the adult volunteer benefit from weekly one-on-one reading time."

Elizabeth Large is a practicing lawyer in Oregon and is the assistant general counsel for litigation for Knowledge Learning Corporation, the largest national preschool/educational provider. Large has dedicated much of her time to volunteer work with organizations such as Montessori Discovery Center, the Salem YMCA Youth Donor Drive and Project Read.

"I am pleased and honored at the opportunity to be part of such an accomplished organization," said Large. "I look forward to contributing to SMART's mission of helping all children in Oregon learn to read and face the future with hope and skills for success."

Mary Wilcox is also a practicing lawyer in Oregon as well as the vice president of Capital Realty Corporation, an investment and asset management firm. Wilcox is very involved in the Oregon community and plays an active role in many health organizations and programs. Wilcox founded the Campaign for Women's Health at Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU), the Center for Women's Health at OHSU and created OHSU's Annual Women's Health Conference.

"SMART changes lives. Not only does the organization have a tremendous impact on the children it helps, but it significantly impacts our community as a whole," said Wilcox. "I am of the belief that education is the foundation for a better future. If I can assist in this effort, there is no better use of my time."

About SMART® (Start Making A Reader Today)

SMART is a nonprofit that envisions an Oregon where every child can read and is empowered to succeed. We engage community volunteers to read one-on-one with K-3 children who need literacy support. Participating children also receive new books each month to keep and read with their families. Since 1992, thousands of SMART volunteers have been inspiring little readers through storytelling. Together with support from the community, we are building brighter futures for Oregonians big and small. Volunteer or donate today. Visit www.getsmartoregon.org or call 1-877-598-4633.

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