



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **Happy Valley Duo Receive Civic Education Award**

EUGENE, Ore. – Two members of the city of Happy Valley’s Community Services team - Parks & Recreation Supervisor Stephani Hern and Director of Community Services & Public Safety Steve Campbell - received the Civic Education Award Friday evening at the League of Oregon Cities’ (LOC) 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Eugene. The award recognizes educators who have promoted local government education in Oregon schools. Hern and Campbell lead the city’s Government Awareness Program.

### **About the “Government Awareness Program**

The city of Happy Valley recognizes that today’s youth are more than the leaders of tomorrow; they also have the capability to be the leaders of today. Advancing this principle, Steve Campbell and Stephani Hern operate this multi-faceted program to mentor youth of all ages in community participation, leadership, and problem solving. Through the program, children are equipped with community building skills and learn to identify – and develop solutions for – current community issues.

The Government Awareness Program includes three core elements:

- Early civic education for elementary-aged learners via classroom instruction and interactive tours of Happy Valley City Hall;
- Mentorship of youth leaders through the Happy Valley Youth Council; and
- Helping youth offenders become thriving community members through a hands-on service work program.

Operating in tandem, these elements have made a profound generational impact and seeded similar programs throughout the region.

### **About the Civic Education Award**

The Civic Education Award was created in 1998 by the LOC Board of Directors to offer recognition to educators in Oregon who have promoted local government education in Oregon’s schools. The award is for individuals who demonstrate their commitment to fostering civic responsibility in youth.

### **About the League of Oregon Cities**

Founded in 1925, the LOC is a voluntary association representing all 241 of Oregon’s incorporated cities. The League helps city governments serve their citizens by providing legislative services, policy setting, intergovernmental relations, conferences and training, technical assistance, and publications.

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