



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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## **Kehrli Award Goes to Columbia City's Leahnette Rivers**

BEND, Ore. – The League of Oregon Cities' prestigious Herman Kehrli Award was presented to City Administrator Leahnette Rivers of Columbia City Friday evening as part of the League's 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at the Riverhouse Convention Center. The award is given to a city employee who has made exceptional contributions to city government in Oregon, producing lasting benefits for their community.

Rivers began her career in public service working for the city of Rogue River at age 17 under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, or CETA program. Created in 1973, this program trained workers and provided them with jobs in public service. Starting work as a planning commission assistant in Rogue River, Rivers moved up to the position of city recorder and eventually was appointed Rogue River's first city administrator.

During her 16 years as city administrator in Columbia City, Rivers has reorganized and improved the city's police department, hired its first full-time police chief, and overseen the passage of a city police levy and county jail levy. In addition, the city's park system now has a bike and nature trail throughout, and a new welcome sign along U.S. Highway 30.

Endorsements for Rivers for this award came from: community members, who praised her outstanding efforts to bring a park to her community to honor veterans and their families; elected officials, who praised her financial planning and budgeting skills; and city staff, who described her as having great compassion for others and having steadfast leadership.

### **About the Herman Kehrli Award**

From 1933 to 1966, Herman Kehrli served as executive secretary of the League of Oregon Cities and director of the University of Oregon's former Bureau of Governmental Research and Service. A joint effort between the League and Bureau established standards of excellence for local government officials through an agenda that includes research, consultation and training in city government affairs. The quality of Oregon's city government today is due in large part to the success of this joint effort.

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

Founded in 1925, the League of Oregon Cities is a voluntary association representing all 242 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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