



Circle of Success®
I N C O R P O R A T E D

INFORMATION BULLETIN

DATE: September 23, 2006

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Bonnie J. Dunbar Ph.D. is the Keynote Speaker at the Circle of Success® Let's Read Fireside!

Let's Read Fireside event to be held Monday Sept. 25, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM

“Future Friends Fireside” is the theme of the first Circle of Success® public event to be held at the home of Pat and Al DeAtley on Monday, September 25. Retired astronaut, Bonnie J. Dunbar Ph.D., who is President and CEO of the Museum of Flight will be the keynote speaker for the event scheduled to go from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. The purpose of the fireside event is to introduce approximately 200 leaders in Yakima County to the emerging industry of early learning. The program begins at 7:00 PM. There is no cost to attend the event but reservations and an active interest in early education are requested. A lovely fall evening, an incredible home with a full view of the Yakima Valley, delicious appetizers, and beverages have all been arranged for this fireside presentation by Dr. Bonnie Dunbar.

A veteran of five space flights, retired NASA astronaut Dr. Dunbar has logged more than 1,208 hours (more than 50 days) in space aboard the shuttles Atlantis, Challenger, Columbia and Endeavour. She was born in Sunnyside, Washington and graduated from Sunnyside High School, received Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in ceramic engineering from the University of Washington and a doctorate in Mechanical/Biomedical Engineering from the University of Houston. Her professional career began at the Boeing Company working for Boeing Computer Services. In 1981, Dr. Dunbar became a NASA astronaut. She retired from the space agency September 30, 2005. She then returned to the Pacific Northwest having accepted the position of President and CEO of the Museum of Flight in Seattle.

Dr. Dunbar has been honored by numerous national and international professional societies and universities, as well as by NASA. In addition to her scientific accomplishments and space experience, Dunbar has been a licensed private pilot since the 1970's and logged more than 1,000 hours as a co-pilot in NASA's T-38 jets. From 1998 to 2003, Dunbar served as the Assistant Director for University Research and Affairs at Johnson Space Center. In this position, she was the focal point for the center's educational and grants programs, as well as its extensive collaborative efforts with colleges, universities, and scientific and engineering organizations.

Dr. Dunbar has championed children and education throughout her career and Circle of Success® is honored that she will speak at the *Let's Read Fireside* September 26. This event is to introduce the *Let's Read* early education program in the Yakima Valley. One year ago, Circle of Success® introduced *Let's Read* with Dolly Parton's *Imagination Library* early literacy program to Yakima Valley families. The program delivers books every month right to the mailboxes of

children aged 0 to 5. One year ago, there were 253 children enrolled in the *Let's Read – Imagination Library* book per month club. Today, thanks to grants and community contributions, there are over 1,540 children enrolled. The goal is to enroll 10,000 children. In support of the goal to enroll 10,000 children, Circle of Success® was awarded a spectacular \$375,000 matching grant from the Foundation for Early Learning's ~ Yakima Children's Fund this summer. The organization has been working very hard to earn the match amount in order to provide additional enrollments for children.

Accompanying Dr. Dunbar at the podium will be Al DeAtley who will speak about the need for quality early learning programs in the Yakima Valley and Nick Temple who will provide up to date information on infant brain development. The *Let's Read Future Fund* Chairman, Bret Bohoskey, will speak about the success of the matching fund drive and describe the potential economic impact of improving early learning in the Yakima Valley. Bret states that, "With the match from the Foundation for Early Learning, this Future Fund can insure the school readiness of Yakima Valley children."

The fireside event includes volunteer participation by the Eisenhower Rotary Interact Club and the Yakima Valley Community College Women's Basketball team. Pre-program music will be provided by pianist Gwen Shipley and vocalist Laura Steiner from the Melody Lane Academy will open the program with the National Anthem.

The Yakima Children's Fund was established in 2001 with a one million dollar donation by the Temple Family and it has generously supported early learning programs in the Yakima Valley for five years. *Let's Read* is an early literacy program and it includes the *Imagination Library*, a quarterly newsletter and the distribution of newborn resource information. Like Circle of Success®, *Let's Read* is a universal access program which means all children in the valley are eligible to participate and there is no cost to the family.

A team of volunteers is being assembled to meet the teaching, administrative and customer service opportunities of the *Let's Read* program. If you would like to join the "Let's Read Posse" as a volunteer, please call the Circle of Success® office at 469.9888.

The cost of an individual child's registration into *Let's Read* is \$50.00 per child per year and private pledges are requested at that amount. Family friendly employers in Yakima County are supporting the enrollment of the preschool children of their employees and clients because they are committed to helping children be ready for school and they are aware of how quality early learning can impact the local economy. More information about Circle of Success, Inc. ® can be obtained at 469.9888 or on our website at www.circleofsuccesscinc.org.

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Circle of Success, Inc® is a private, nonprofit 501-c-3 partnership of community organization that empowers parents to prepare their children to enter school ready to learn. Circle of Success® provides home based learning materials in order to connect parents to community resources throughout Yakima County.

"Empowering parents to prepare their child to enter school ready to learn"

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