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Fund-raising group lauds philanthropists

Several Oregon business executives were among those honored Tuesday by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP).

Duncan and Cynthia Campbell were recognized as Outstanding Philanthropists at the noon banquet at the Hilton Hotel downtown. Duncan Campbell, an attorney and certified public accountant, as well as timber investor, officially launched his philanthropic career in 1988 with his \$2 million seed gift to fund Friends of the Children. The nonprofit, which helps at-risk youths through mentoring, has become one of Portland's premier social service organizations. Its executive director, Douglas Stam, recently left Friends to become the executive director of The Meyer Memorial Trust, with assets in 2001 of \$495 million.

"We have tried to focus on new solutions to community problems," Cynthia Campbell told the sold-out crowd in the Hilton's Grand Ballroom. "We hope we have demonstrated that people in business do care about the community, and people of faith care about the community."

Another elder statesman of the business community was honored for Outstanding Philanthropic Foundation. Donald E. Tykeson, described by emcee Gerry Frank as "a pioneer in the cable and broadcast television industry" in Oregon, was recognized for creating a foundation that, since 1995, has donated some \$3 million to various causes.

Gary Fish, founder of Deschutes Brewery in Bend, accepted the award for Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation on behalf of the brewery. The brewery has hosted a golf tournament, the Sagebrush Classic, which provides most of the annual funding for Deschutes Children's Foundation.

A concerned parent turned entrepreneur was the spark behind Schoolhouse Supplies, which was recognized as the Outstanding Innovative Project. Katie Gold read about an organization in Cincinnati, Ohio, which collected surplus supplies from companies and made them available at no cost to public school teachers. In 2000, with the backing of The Portland Schools Foundation, Gold presided over the launch of Schoolhouse Supplies, which serve an increasing number of public school teachers every school year.

In accepting the award, Gold said: "Philanthropy is about passion. Passion for your cause. Passion so strong that you can't understand why in the world someone would ever say 'no' to you for anything that benefits your cause. That passion comes from tapping into your core values and for me it's about children, teachers, quality public education and our environment.

"Philanthropy is also about community. All the passion in the world won't get you anywhere without a community to embrace your idea. The Portland community got behind the idea for Schoolhouse Supplies and gave us life. The Portland Schools Foundation took us under their wing as a sponsored project. Business leaders lent their name and support to the vision. Volunteers rolled up their sleeves and went to work."

Others honored today included Hands On Portland, which organizes volunteer groups to take on a number of short-term community tasks; Community 101, a project between Portland General Electric and high school students; and Nancy Russell, founder of Friends of the Columbia Gorge.