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## **Hood River Wins Good Governance Award at LOC Conference**

SALEM, Ore. – During its 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference last week in Portland, the League of Oregon Cities presented its 2017 Helen and Alan Berg Good Governance award to the city of Hood River. The award recognized the city for its Latino outreach program. Created in 1998, the Good Governance award honors city programs that connect citizens within a community. In 2010, it was renamed in honor of the late Mr. and Mrs. Berg, former mayors of Corvallis and presidents of the League of Oregon Cities.

### **About the Hood River Latino Outreach Program**

The program demonstrates a city's effort to engage a disconnected segment of its constituency and ultimately create a more inclusive community. In order to improve the representation of Hood River's Latino residents, Mayor Paul Blackburn recently formed a special Latino Advisory Council that would "inform, empower and listen." Since then, participation in community affairs by the city's Latino population has increased significantly. For example, there was a large Latino turnout for a recent town hall with U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley, who subsequently asked Mayor Blackburn for assistance in convening a group of Latino leaders for further discussion. In addition, when public meetings were held earlier this year on the rezoning of public land for affordable housing, the Latino community responded with robust participation, including Spanish-language testimony. Finally, Mayor Blackburn and city staff are now regular speakers on the local Spanish-language radio station.

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

Founded in 1925, the League of Oregon Cities 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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