

DRESS FOR SUCCESS OREGON WINS HIGHEST WORLDWIDE HONOR

JULY 2009

Dress for Success Oregon is the 2009 winner of the *Nancy Lublin Founders Award*, the highest honor given worldwide for the 93 **Dress for Success** organizations. Presenting the tribute at the annual **Dress for Success** banquet in New York City, Worldwide Executive Director Joi Gordon extolled Oregon's extraordinary growth over the past year. "Oregon served three times as many women this year as last. Women searching for jobs in the northwest have an exemplary organization to help them achieve their goals. We honor our Portland partner for the extraordinary services they provide."

Oregon Executive Director Barb Attridge noted, "We are thrilled and honored to be the 2009 recipient of the *Nancy Lublin Award* and to be recognized for our work with low income women. We all know that when women have financial resources of their own, they are empowered and can free themselves from circumstances—poverty, homelessness, abuse—that they thought they had to endure. When a woman is empowered, her whole family is empowered---and that is how we can end the cycle of poverty. We are grateful to the Board and staff of **Dress for Success Worldwide** for acknowledging our accomplishments with this esteemed award."

Nancy Lublin is the founder of **Dress for Success**. She was a New York law student who inherited \$5,000 from her grandfather and wanted to use those funds to improve poor women's lives. Working with two nuns from Spanish Harlem, she saw that one barrier disadvantaged women faced in overcoming poverty was not having the appropriate clothing to go to job interviews and enter the world of employment. **Dress for Success** is now an affiliation of organizations that promote economic independence, education, and stability for women all over the world.

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