



OREGON COLLEGE *of* ORIENTAL MEDICINE

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OCOM's 5th Annual Cherry Blossom Gala Raises More Than \$112,000 for the College's Annual Fund

PORTLAND, OREGON — On April 8, more than 160 supporters filled Oregon College of Oriental Medicine's KPC Community Room for the college's annual **Cherry Blossom Gala**. The event raised an all-time high of \$112,280 to promote OCOM's top-ranked academic programs and to expand access to integrative health care.

As the evening began, President and Chief Executive Officer, Deborah Howe, PhD, FAICP, expressed her admiration for OCOM's students, noting they "come to OCOM because they know that Chinese medicine is effective and they want to become healers... they are willing to work extraordinarily hard for their education and — more importantly — their future patients and the medicine."

Master's program student and clinic intern, Travis Kern, shared an inspiring story about his life-changing work with a patient who receives regular acupuncture treatments to help overcome the physical and emotional impact of limited mobility after suffering from a severe stroke. "She relies on our clinics, our knowledgeable interns, and our accessible services to stay in control and to remain connected to her health and healing journey. Chinese medicine is an essential component in helping people live more satisfying lives, an essential component to adding good health into all of our mantras."

Attendees included OCOM co-founder, Eric Stevens, DAOM, LAc, and three of the 34-year-old college's first supervisors: Robert Kaneko, DAOM, LAc; Joseph Colleto, ND, LAc; and Janet LaRosa, DOM, LAc. Metro Councilor Carlotta Collette was also an honored guest.

Also attending were several of OCOM's renowned faculty leaders, staff, alumni, students, and community supporters. The evening's program was led by emcee and Chief Development Officer, Dave Eshbaugh, and auctioneer, Heidi Hill, who encouraged donors to give at personally significant levels.

OCOM's trustees, Dea-Anne D'Amico, MA; Lea Anne Doolittle, MBA; Charles R. Elder, MD, MPH, FACP; Michell M. Hay; Gene G. Hong, MD; Dustin R. Klinger, JD; Brad J. Malsin, MD; Juliet T. Moran; Karen M. Williams, JD; and Leah R. Yamaguchi, LAc celebrate the success of the gala and thank all who contributed.

Photos from the event are **available for viewing** on OCOM's official Facebook page: **/OCOMPDX**.

About Oregon College of Oriental Medicine (OCOM)

Founded in 1983, OCOM is a single-purpose professional graduate school that offers two specialized degree programs: Master of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (MACOM) and Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (DAOM). OCOM's mission is to transform health care by educating highly skilled and compassionate practitioners, providing exemplary patient care, and engaging in innovative research within a community of service and healing. Our 1,400 graduates practice, teach and research Chinese medicine in 50 states and across the globe, and have provided an estimated 10 million treatments over the past 34 years. Additional information about the college is available on our website: **ocom.edu**

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