

Recognizing Outstanding Service Excellence



Left to right: *Kirsten Wall, Idy Essien, Hope Suggit, Riikka Salonen*
Front: *Paula Amato, M.D., Debbie Dixon-Smith*
Absent: *Carol Blenning*

The Black American Heritage Planning Committee (Golden ROSE Team Award recipient)

Brycie Jones from Communications and Marketing submitted the following nomination...

Next week, OHSU will celebrate Black American Heritage with a slew of lunchtime speakers on cultural topics, a community booth fair highlighting groups within this culture, a poster exhibit on influential figures and a coordinated special menu that draws upon cuisine from continental Africa to southern soul food. This week is also part of OHSU's employee appreciation program. This unprecedented weeklong event was a massive undertaking that could not have happened without the dedicated effort of the many members of the Black American Heritage planning group. Planning these events is not a part of any of the group members' job descriptions. In addition to attending to their regular job duties, they have made the time -- in some cases working many additional hours beyond their scheduled shifts -- to ensure that this event was successful, well-rounded, educational and furthering OHSU's strategic goal of diversity. Countless cultures were researched, potential speakers contacted, new recipes tested and materials created for this event through the volunteer efforts of these employees. But what really makes this planning feat extraordinary is the extremely tight timeline in which the event was developed. As the groups involved were tied up in other institutional projects immediately preceding the event, our intrepid planning members only had 3 weeks time to prepare each amazingly detailed part of this event. In addition, since this event is brand-new, the committee members were starting from scratch and had to define their vision for the project in addition to working to execute the event. I stand in awe of their event planning acumen. This group deserves the Golden ROSE Award for their unwavering commitment to diversity, a vision 2020 area of focus. They were not hired by OHSU to plan these cultural events that also serve to recognize our employees, but they threw themselves into the project with verve and determination, and with a careful consideration to present a well-rounded and community-informed event. This is the definition of going beyond one's job description to make OHSU a better place. The event they planned serves to honor the hard work by all of our employees and to shine a light on part of our OHSU family; and in turn, I believe OHSU should honor their outstanding efforts with a Golden ROSE.



Team Award Recipient - March 2010