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## **Cornelius Employee Receives Civic Education Award**

PORTLAND, Ore. – City of Cornelius Communications & Community Engagement Manager Itzel Sayago received the Civic Education Award Friday evening at the League of Oregon Cities' (LOC) 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Portland. The award recognizes educators who have promoted local government education in Oregon schools.

### **About the Cornelius Youth Advisory Council**

After years of inactivity, Itzel Sayago has revived the Cornelius Youth Advisory Council, growing it from zero members to more than 15. Sayago created a structured, mission-driven program that provides a rare opportunity for youth to engage directly with local government officials, community organizations, and civic leaders. By organizing and executing events like “Take Care of Cornelius Day,” movies in the park, and a local mural project, she instills youth with a sense of ownership, accountability, and community pride. Earlier this year, Sayago arranged a trip to Salem, where youth council members met with legislators to advocate for a potential community center in Cornelius, providing hands-on experience in civic advocacy and the legislative process. By fostering responsibility, critical thinking, and a sense of ownership in their community, Sayago prepares Cornelius youth to become informed, active citizens. Her vision, dedication, and innovative leadership have created a program that will continue to benefit the city for years to come.

### **About the Civic Education Award**

The Civic Education Award was created in 1998 by the LOC Board of Directors to offer recognition to educators in Oregon who have promoted local government education in Oregon's schools. The award is for individuals who demonstrate their commitment to fostering civic responsibility in youth.

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

Founded in 1925, the LOC 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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