



## 21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL RUSSIAN-SPEAKING YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

January 2, 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Russian-Speaking Community:

The Russian-Speaking Youth Leadership Conference (RSYLC) needs your help! Our all-volunteer Fundraising Committee asks you to support the Twenty-first Russian-Speaking Youth Leadership Conference, scheduled for Thursday April 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 at Clackamas Community College.

The purpose of the conference is to introduce participants to a diverse number of industries and sectors, along with identifying how many career options and opportunities are available upon high school graduation, and to promote youth leadership and development of the Eastern-European Community in the Pacific Northwest.

The Eastern-European population in the Portland Metropolitan Area has been growing rapidly since 1989, and is now approaching 160,000 residents. This population growth has brought many challenges: a disproportionate high school dropout rate among Russian-speaking youth; a lack of culturally appropriate services for Russian-speaking immigrants and refugees, and a lack of awareness about community norms and laws.

To address these challenges, the RSYLC has been committed to providing culturally appropriate learning opportunities with relentless advocacy and support for more than 20 years within the region. During this time, the RSYLC has played an instrumental role in bringing several thousand Russian-speaking youth together to discuss these challenges and develop meaningful ways to address them on a community-wide level via youth, parent, school and community involvement.

Conference participants have included high school students from school districts in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington & Marion counties in Oregon along with Clark County in Washington. This year we expect more than 200 students and guests from Oregon and Washington to participate in the conference. With your continued support, we intend to award a number of art & scholastic scholarships to the students, to support them in their career advancement opportunities.

We thank you for your help, and hope that you can support our efforts to the emerging leaders within our diverse communities!

Sincerely,

Fundraising Committee of RSYLC 2017

For more information, please contact Irina Phillips (Fundraising) at (541) 829-1941, email: [irina3@pdx.edu](mailto:irina3@pdx.edu) or Vadim Riskin (Fundraising) at (503) 805-2097, email: [vrisk1@yahoo.com](mailto:vrisk1@yahoo.com)

Please send contributions to: Attn: East European Coalition, 2141 SE 113<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97216. Please note on the check RSYLC or Russian Speaking Youth Leadership Conference.

All donated funds are tax deductible as a charitable contribution – Federal Tax ID 26-4140853