



Tony Sanchez

Bend-La Pine Schools has announced that its next **Chief Human Resources Officer** will be **Tony Sanchez**, an HR executive with over 25 years of leadership experience in the public sector, higher education, and health care. Sanchez accepted the position this week and will begin in the new role July 1.

Most recently Sanchez was Chief HR Officer for Texas Woman's University, the nation's largest state-supported university primarily for women with campuses in Denton, Houston, and Dallas. Previously he served in HR leadership at the University of North Texas at Dallas; Lamar University in Beaumont; Nix Health System in San Antonio; and Tenet Healthcare/St. Luke's Baptist Hospital in San Antonio.

Sanchez will oversee all HR functions for Bend-La Pine Schools, including employee and labor relations, benefits administration, evaluation systems, recruitment strategy, and compensation and classification systems. The position reports directly to the Superintendent.

Kernutt Stokes, an Oregon-based accounting firm with four offices throughout the state, is pleased to announce the addition of two new hires in its Bend office. Reed College graduate **Elisabeth Green** joins the firm as a manager, and **Addy Kilcoyne** joins as an administrative assistant.



Elisabeth Green

Addy Kilcoyne

After nearly 50 rounds of voting, **Oregon** emerged as the final state standing in a **viral Reddit competition**. The competition began in r/geography memes as a daily "delete a state" game where users voted one U.S. state out each round, with eliminated states merging into neighboring regions and creating increasingly chaotic fictional alliances and lore along the way.

What started as a small internet meme, snowballed into a weeks-long online campaign, with state subreddits rallying supporters, brigading vote threads, and inventing mock nations like "Megasota" and an expanded Oregon-led Pacific Northwest coalition.

After winning the tournament, Oregon inspired celebration posts, timelapses, and tongue-in-cheek declarations of Oregonian supremacy across Reddit.



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Washington Trust Bank is pleased to announce the addition of Tony Pendleton to its Central Oregon Small Business Banking Team in Bend. He will serve as a vice president and small business banking relationship manager.

With over 20 years of banking experience, Pendleton will be responsible for helping small business clients with their banking needs by providing a wide range of services and products offered by Washington Trust. Pendleton previously served as a relationship manager for Washington Trust Bank's Central Oregon Commercial Team. In this role, he was responsible for working with commercial clients to tailor solutions to their financial needs, including lines of credit, real estate financing, and equipment purchasing.

High school students at **Cascades Academy** recently presented more than \$9,000 in grants through the Oregon Community Foundation Community 101 program, supporting two Central Oregon nonprofits focused on upstream prevention in youth mental health. Through Community 101, the Oregon Community Foundation provided \$7,500 in grant funding, while Cascades Academy students raised an additional \$1,630 through a community rummage sale.



PHOTO | COURTESY OF CASCADES ACADEMY

Student grant awards included \$4,815 to Hearts Unknown Education and \$4,315 to NAMI Central Oregon.

Community 101 is a classroom-based program that gives students hands-on experience in philanthropy, community engagement and nonprofit grantmaking. Throughout the year, students researched local needs, evaluated nonprofit organizations and determined how to allocate funding to maximize community impact.

Kivo Expands Life Sciences Leadership Team with Appointment of **Former Veeva Executive Chris Xistris**.

Xistris brings more than 25 years of experience across Regulatory Operations, Clinical Operations, Quality systems, and enterprise software transformation. Prior to joining Kivo, he spent more than a decade at Veeva Systems, where he most recently served as Senior Director, R&D Services Engagement. During his tenure, he led adoption and transition planning efforts across more than 600 customer engagements spanning Regulatory, Clinical, Quality, Commercial, and Safety domains.

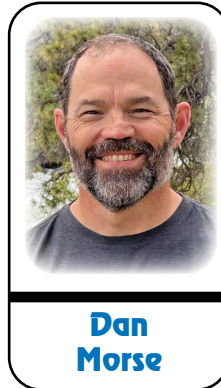
At Kivo, Xistris now oversees the continued expansion and scaling of the company's Services organization as demand grows among pharmaceutical, biotech, and clinical research organizations (CROs) seeking modern, interoperable alternatives to legacy enterprise systems.

"Chris understands the issues that firms in our industry face because he has experienced them from every angle, including sponsor operations, consulting, and enterprise SaaS transformation," said Toban Zolman, CEO at Kivo. "He has helped hundreds of organizations navigate complex operational and technology transitions throughout his career. That perspective is incredibly valuable as AI reshapes drug development and companies search for faster, more connected ways to work."

Xistris began his career working directly within Regulatory and Clinical Operations teams at small and mid-sized biotech organizations, where he focused on TMF management, investigational drug submission management, and the implementation of content and information management systems. He later transitioned into consulting, helping organizations build and scale regulatory operations infrastructure, improve business processes, and modernize operational workflows.

"Kivo represents the kind of nimble, forward-thinking company that I've wanted to be part of for a long time," said Xistris. "The industry is entering a major period of change driven by AI and the need for faster, more connected operations. Kivo understands where drug development is headed and has built a platform around that reality. I'm incredibly excited to join a team that is helping modern biotech organizations scale with greater speed and flexibility."

"Tony is a welcomed addition to our Central Oregon Small Business Banking Team in Bend," said Greg Power, small business banking team leader for Washington Trust. "With Tony's history of proactively delivering insightful, analysis-driven proposals and financial solutions to meet his clients' evolving needs, I have no doubt that he'll be a great asset to our small business clients and our growing team."



Dan Morse

Deschutes River Conservancy has announced that **Dan Morse** will be joining as Program Director in June. A Bend resident, he has spent more than two decades working in conservation program leadership, collaborative natural resource management, and organizational strategy, with a focus on translating complex conservation challenges into shared, durable solutions.

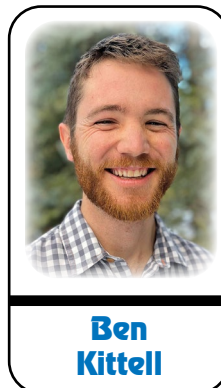
In his new role, Morse will provide direction across DRC's programs, lead program staff, and build and maintain stakeholder relationships throughout the Deschutes Basin.

Prior to joining the DRC, Morse spent six years at Booz Allen Hamilton supporting federal environmental agencies and leading internal strategy initiatives. He previously served as Conservation Director of the Oregon Natural Desert Association and as Executive Director of High Country Citizens' Alliance in Crested Butte, Colorado. Early in his career, he received the BLM Director's 4 Cs Award for outstanding collaborative conservation.

Morse holds a Master of Science in Forest Economics from Northern Arizona University, a Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University, and is a certified Project Management Professional.

The nonprofit **Tower Theatre Foundation** and **Marianne Watson** established the **Doug Watson Scholarship for Performing Arts** in memory of the Tower's longtime member, sponsor, volunteer, and Board Chair. Doug was a true advocate for the arts, especially the Tower's LessonPLAN education programs, and reveled in seeing an audience of enthusiastic school kids react to live performances.

The Doug Watson Scholarship empowers students across Central Oregon who plan to pursue their creative passions after high school. The following 2026 recipients will each receive \$5,000 to further their arts education: Miriam Egoavil: Madras High School, Class of 2026, Logan Edmonds: Crook County High School, Class of 2026 and Dylan Jones: Mountain View High School, Class of 2026.



Ben Kittell

Ben Kittell is stepping into a new role at the Deschutes River Conservancy, having been promoted to Development Director effective June 1. Kittell joined the DRC in 2023 and has been instrumental in coordinating outreach and fundraising initiatives, implementing donor communication strategies, and fostering relationships with individuals and businesses committed to river conservation.

In his expanded role, Kittell will lead DRC's overall fundraising efforts, building on the relationships and strategies he has developed since joining the organization.

Kittell holds a degree in Environmental Communications from Colorado State University. Before joining DRC, he spent a decade as a fly-fishing guide, sharing his passion for Central Oregon's rivers with visitors and locals alike. He now channels that same enthusiasm into fundraising for river conservation.

A Sisters resident, Kittell spends his free time exploring the outdoors with his wife and young son. In winter you will find the family on cross-country skis, and come spring they trade the snow for the river and their family garden.

Kivo continues to see growing momentum across the life sciences industry, and through its expanding partner ecosystem, Kivo is helping organizations standardize workflows, simplify collaboration, accelerate implementation timelines, and maintain audit-ready compliance across sponsor projects and internal operations. Additionally, the company recently announced Kivo Headless GxP™, a new open architecture designed to help life sciences organizations operationalize agentic AI across Regulatory, Clinical, and Quality workflows.

To meet Chris in-person, see him at the DIA Global Annual Meeting in Philadelphia at booth #1313, or register for the Kivo Headless GxP debut event on June 8th at 10am PT at kivo.io/webinar/headless-launch.



MAYA ANICHINI

The **American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) Broken Top Chapter** is proud to recognize **Maya Anichini** as the 2025 Safety Professional of the Year (SPY). This award honors a chapter member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, service, and commitment to advancing the safety profession within Central Oregon and beyond.

Maya's involvement with ASSP spans more than a decade, dating back to her early years as a student member. Since the formation of the Broken Top Section — and later Chapter — Maya has been a consistent and enthusiastic advocate for professional development, collaboration, and community engagement in safety.

Her long-standing dedication to ASSP reflects both her passion for the profession and her belief in the value of strong professional networks.

Maya is currently serving as the Broken Top Chapter Vice President, continuing a record of exceptional service on the chapter's Executive Committee. Prior to this role, she distinguished herself as Chapter Secretary, setting a new standard for the position.

Oregon Department of Education (ODE) Director **Dr. Charlene Williams** joined Oregon Lottery leaders, North Wasco County School District Superintendent **Dr. Carolyn Bernal**, and The Dalles Middle School Principal **Sherri Kilgore** and Assistant Principal **Shudhi Datta** in honoring **Erica Carrillo** as Oregon's 2026 Education Support Professional of the Year. Carrillo is the Bilingual Family Liaison at The Dalles Middle School.



PHOTO | BY LIZ MERAH

Dr. Williams and Jen Roper with Oregon Lottery led the event and awarded Carrillo the honor. Thanks to ODE's partnership with the Oregon Lottery, Carrillo received an award of \$5,000 and a commemorative plaque. A matching plaque and banner were awarded to The Dalles Middle School to mark Carrillo's achievements and her impact in the North Wasco County community.