

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES *of* OREGON

Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EMO honors Reyna Lopez with “Young Visionary Award”

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) will honor Reyna Lopez, executive director of PCUN, Oregon’s Farmworker Union, with a “Young Visionary Award” on April 24, 2019, at its *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration*. It is a particular delight to recognize the young people in our midst who are carrying the torch for social justice.

The proud daughter of immigrants from Mexico, raised in the Catholic faith, Lopez is a fierce advocate for Oregon’s Latinx community. She led the Yes on 88 Campaign calling for driver’s cards for undocumented Oregonians. She founded Causa’s New American Voters Project, registering thousands of Oregon’s newest citizens to vote, and worked tirelessly to win tuition equity for Oregon’s Dreamer population. She also fights for gender equity in Oregon’s Paid Family and Medical Leave policy and on national campaigns to protect multiple safety net programs. Lopez’s largeness of heart and appetite for action are already shaping a more generous future for generations to come.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s *Benefit Dinner & Awards Celebration* is the single most important annual fundraiser for our vital ministries to the poor, the vulnerable, the hungry and the sick throughout the state of Oregon. Funds contributed by sponsors and guests enable us to serve those in need and to advocate on their behalf at the Oregon Legislature for a just, equitable and sustainable society. Each year we honor extraordinary organizations or individuals like Reyna Lopez whose moral vision and commitment to action have contributed profoundly to making our community a better place.

This year, the April 24 event will be held at the Benson Hotel, 309 SW Broadway, Portland. A reception and silent auction to benefit EMO’s ministries will be held from 5 to 6:30 p.m.; dinner, live auction and the award presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Reservations, available at emoregon.org, are \$100 per person (festival seating) or \$2,000 per table of 10 (includes Bronze Sponsorship and reserved seating). For more information, contact Carla Starrett-Bigg at (503) 221-1054, ext. 275, or csbigg@emoregon.org.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, creation justice, and public policy advocacy.