

Paul Bentley, Architect

Samantha Wright

For most people at the age of 12, we still wanted to be Astronauts or Ballerinas but Paul Bentley knew he wanted to be an Architect from the start. At the age of 12, Bentley started working for an architect and over the next 30 years Bentley has travelled all over the west coast working in both Oregon and California gaining invaluable experience about architectural designing and running a successful business. In the early 90's Bentley set up his own self titled business Paul Bentley Architect, AIA, in Roseburg, Oregon. Bentley wanted to create more than just a business, he knows nothing is more valuable than the relationships you form while on the job and since the start of his own business, Paul Bentley has created lasting relationships all over Oregon.

In 2009 Bentley's company was selected to be one of 6 contractors out of hundreds of applicants to be part of the Salem-Keizer School District Construction Bond which focuses on renovation and repairs in all local schools as well as to address the over-crowding issue that has become apparent over the last few years. Salem-Keizer School District is the second largest school district in the state of Oregon and the schools were terribly over-crowded and in desperate need of repair. Paul Bentley in one of the lead architects assisting in the renovation and re-roofing of at least 10 different schools throughout the district.

While working on the Salem-Keizer Construction Bond Bentley ran into Krina Lemons, SKEF Executive Director, and naturally they got to chatting about his work and the foundation's work and Bentley said he instantly fell in love with SKEF's mission and goals and wanted to be involved. Having previously been a school board member in Roseburg for 9 years, Bentley loves



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kids and wants to help them receive the best education possible. "Educating kids is one of the most important things this society needs" says Bentley, "and there is never enough money for kids and schools, without organizations like SKEF, too many of our children would not be getting the education they deserve." Bentley recognizes how important a good education is and how desperate our nation is for well educated people that becoming teaming up with SKEF was a perfect match.

Bentley generously agreed to sponsor this years' Back to School luncheon which is a major fundraising event for the foundation. In response to Paul Bentley's extremely bighearted sponsorship Krina Lemons said, "We are very fortunate to have forged this friendship between SKEF and Paul Bentley. It's a blessing to have found someone who cares so much about our children's education."

So far, Bentley has had an amazing experience in the Salem-Keizer area and not just for the work he has been able to do and will be doing on the schools in the district but also because of the community and the friendships he has made. He loves nothing more than to "give back to the community, especially to schools, and support the local economy by always buying local" when they are in town. Creating those friendships and connections is what Paul has become known for and SKEF is privileged to have made such an amazing friend and partner. ●

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