

## Volunteer Carlos Romo Receives AARP Oregon Beacon Award



Carlos Romo was presented with AARP Oregon's inaugural Beacon Award at the AARP Oregon Volunteer Leadership Summit in October. The AARP Oregon Beacon Award celebrates the civic and community contributions made by an outstanding 50+ Oregon volunteer making a difference in their community. The award was presented by AARP Oregon State Director Bandana Shrestha and Volunteer State President Michael Schultz.

Romo became an AARP volunteer in 2008 while living in Nevada. Initially a university professor in foreign languages and literature, he completed his career as a deputy administrator for the Nevada Equal Rights Commission. Though Romos' wife Nancy had been a member of AARP, it wasn't until he retired that he became enthusiastic about AARP's "great advocacy and education efforts" and also started volunteering.

In 2015, the Romoses moved to Washington County where Carlos jumped right into volunteering with AARP Oregon. Since then, he has made outstanding contributions to the Fraud Watch Network, Oregon Saves, and advocacy efforts. Diversity and inclusion are important values for Romos, who served for two years as AARP Oregon's Diversity Advisory Committee Chair and spent several years working on OregonSaves, particularly with the H/L community. In addition to sharing information at Woodburn meetings, a city which is more than 50% H/L, he took OregonSaves information to the Mexican consulate, attended Latino conferences and did outreach with Centro Cultural in Cornelius. He helped with initial translations of OregonSaves information into Spanish. For his work, State Treasurer Tobias Read sent him special recognition.

Romo frequently spends more than 20 hours per week on volunteer projects and believes in a life of service. AARP Oregon State Director Bandana Shrestha says, "Carlos is ethical, compassionate, and treats all people with dignity and respect. He lives the mission and vision of AARP and is an exceptional advocate for people 50+ and their families."