

# Miss Oregon

 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, INC.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Miss Oregon, Rachel Berry, steps down from her position as Miss Oregon**

PORTLAND, OREGON (July 19, 2012) – Miss Oregon, Rachel Berry, has made the decision to step down from her position as Miss Oregon, effective July 19, 2012. Consequently, Miss Berry will not be competing in the Miss America pageant in Las Vegas in January of 2013. After a subsequent review of the residency requirement, Miss Berry was not able to prove she satisfied the residency requirement six months prior to competing in the Miss Willamette Valley pageant in April 2012.

According to Miss Berry, “to compete for Miss America is a dream I have worked toward since I was young, but I accept this decision to do the right thing and relinquish this title. In the spirit of what Miss America stands for, I would not want to deprive another contestant of the opportunity to represent the beautiful State of Oregon at the Miss America Pageant.”

The Miss America Pageant was started in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1921 and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada in 2006. Run by the Miss America Organization, the Miss America Pageant exists to provide personal and professional opportunities for young women and to promote their voices in culture, politics and the community. The Miss America Organization is a not-for profit organization that is the largest private provider of scholarship money to young women in America. Last year, the Miss America Organization and its state and local organizations made available more than \$45 million in cash and scholarship assistance. [www.missamerica.org](http://www.missamerica.org)

The Miss Oregon Pageant was started in Seaside, Oregon in 1947 and it continues to be held at the Seaside Convention Center. In 2012, between the local and state pageants, the Miss Oregon Scholarship Program made available \$452,000 in cash and tuition scholarships. The Miss Oregon Scholarship Program is a not-for-profit organization run entirely by volunteers. [www.missoregon.org](http://www.missoregon.org)

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