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MEDIA CONTACT: Mia Primrose | mia@wohesc.org | 503.266.2377 x 107



Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) Program Announced March 5-7, 2025, in Portland, Oregon

December 5, 2024 – The 2025 **Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC)** program has just been announced, to take place **March 5-7** in Portland, Oregon, to inspire change, foster collaboration, and drive action in sustainability and social justice within higher education across the Cascadia region. The conference serves as a space for contributors, advocates, and change-makers to share actionable solutions and cultivate lasting impact within their institutions and communities. The 2025 conference theme, **Cultivating Sustainable Communities**, will explore the intentional care required to build enduring and inclusive communities across multiple levels, from neighborhoods and campuses to relationships with the natural world.

2025 Conference Highlights

Keynote Speakers:

- Sarah Jaquette Ray | Author, *A Field Guide to Climate Anxiety: How to Keep Your Cool on a Warming Planet* and Chair and Professor, Environmental Studies, Cal Poly Humboldt
- Judy Bluehorse Skelton | Associate Professor (Ret.), Indigenous Nations Studies, Portland State University
- Brianna Fruean | Pacific Climate Warrior / Activist / Environmental Advocate

Notable Speakers:

- Sophia Agtarap | Race and Social Justice Lead Advisor, City of Seattle's Office of Civil Rights
- Madeline Ostrander | Author, *At Home on an Unruly Planet*
- Makerusa Porotesano | Director of Multicultural Services, Portland Community College (PCC)
- Thea Prieto | Author, *From the Caves*
- Gabe Seoships | Executive Director, Friends of Tryon Creek
- Erin Sharkey | Author, *A Darker Wilderness: Black Nature Writing from Soil to Stars*

Plenaries:

- Traditional Teachings for a Modern Crisis: Indigenous Climate Solutions
- Authors Plenary: Intersections and Constellations – On Being Human Now and in the Future

Special Features:

- Student Sustainability Action Challenge
- Art in Nature Workshop - Cultivating Presence in Nature
- Author Book Signing - *From the Caves; Field Guide to Climate Anxiety; At Home on an Unruly Planet and A Darker Wilderness: Black Nature Writing from Soil to Stars*

Tours:

- Portland Community College Rock Creek Walking Tour
- Portland Community College Metro Opportunity Center/OC42: A Holistic Approach to Community and Sustainability
- Urban Rejuvenation: Portland State University's Oak Savanna and Vernier Science Center

Featured Sessions:

- Impact Networks: Creating Change in a Complex World
- Sustainable Strategies for Student Engagement
- Empowering Indigenous Voices through Natural History and Food Systems Education in Environmental Studies: Lessons from the Field
- Leading Justice-Centered Sustainability: An Example of Radical Reclamation and Practice of Sustainability for our Collective Future
- Hands-on Activities to Decrease Eco-Anxiety and Climate Change Grief: Building Resilience through Community
- Cultivating Connections: Designing a Hub for Community-Centric Education

Conference Details**Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC)****Date:** March 5-7, 2025**Location:** Portland Community College Sylvania Campus - 12000 SW 49th Avenue
Portland, OR 97219**Schedule and Speakers:** <https://wohesc.org/program/>Tickets can be purchased [online](#) or by phone at 503.226.2377.**About WOHESC**

The Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) is a platform for inspiring change, facilitating action, and promoting collaboration related to sustainability and social justice within the region's higher education institutions. As a regional conference, WOHESC promotes a local focus, with dialogue specifically addressing issues in the Cascadia region. Solutions will be tailored for implementation and action in our unique political, social, economic, and environmental climate. More information at <https://wohesc.org/>. ###