

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Reporters interested in a speaker interview or covering the event with a media pass may contact Noel Sandberg at [noel@wohesc.org](mailto:noel@wohesc.org) or 206.459.0595.

## **WA & OR Sustainability Conference to Explore Root Causes to Sustainability Challenges and Ways to Address Them**

*Full program for the 2020 Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference just announced.*

**December 10, 2019 (Eugene, OR)** – Organizers of the annual Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) have released the complete program for the 2020 conference, taking place **March 2-4** at the University of Oregon in Eugene. WOHESC 2020 will continue to advance action around **equity, diversity and inclusion** through thematic elements, speakers and attendees while examining the **root causes to sustainability challenges and positive actions to address them**.

The conference will feature expert leaders who will share their experiences within their respective specialties on topics ranging from student led initiatives, waste reduction, alternative energy, sustainable agriculture, environmental justice, and more. Students and attendees will learn proven best practices first-hand, and will leave with actionable takeaways as these speakers set the stage for a conference that inspires and drives change. The full program can be found at [wohesc.org/program](http://wohesc.org/program).

Day one of the conference will feature the opportunity to tour notable sustainable facilities and organizations in the city and on campus, including a tour of **Bulk Handling Systems**, a tour of University of Oregon's **Green Labs**, a University of Oregon **Campus Walking Tour**, and an **Environmental Justice Tour**, which will highlight the ways that organizations in Eugene are improving conditions for the city's vulnerable communities.

### **WOHESC 2020 – Program Highlights**

#### **Workshop: Emerging Leaders: Envisioning the Future of the Field**

Many sustainability managers understand their campuses well, are well connected to their peer, and have unsurpassed collective knowledge as to maximizing the effectiveness of campus sustainability initiatives. Yet in some cases, they are wondering how they can utilize their experience to expand their influence. How can sustainability managers continue to grow, help their campuses respond to (and anticipate) a new set of challenges, and build deeper community partnerships? This workshop will provide experienced sustainability managers an opportunity to assess these issues.

### **Plenary: Hiring – Chief Sustainability Officer**

Twenty years ago the number of people calling themselves sustainability professionals could be counted on one hand. Today they number in the thousands. What do sustainability professionals do? What have they achieved? Where is the field headed? How does one get or create a sustainability position? Senior sustainability professionals from the private sector, government, and higher education will answer these questions about this new and evolving profession.

### **Plenary: Writing About Climate Change**

Climate change is the existential threat of our time. During this special plenary session, four diverse writers will talk about their approaches to writing about the climate crisis in their varied disciplines. This panel will explore the question: What role does writing play in how we understand, record, and work to solve the climate crisis?

### **Plenary: Putting Environmental Justice into Practice**

This panel features people working on the various front lines of environmental justice, sustainability and social equity work. Panelists will talk about their experiences, philosophies and how they address the root causes of social and environmental justice with positive action.

### **Notable Speakers:**

- Dr. Jessica Black | Director, Center for Indigenous Health, Culture and the Environment, and Associate Professor of Environmental Science, Heritage University
- Michele Crim | Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Portland
- Claudia Frere-Anderson | Director, University of Washington Sustainability
- Kelsey Juliana | Youth Climate Activist, Our Children's Trust; Plaintiff, Juliana v. United States
- Noel Kinder | Chief Sustainability Officer, Nike
- Dr. M Jackson | Author, The Secret Lives of Glaciers
- Narce Rodriguez | Chief Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Pacific University
- McKenzie Funk | Journalist and Author, Windfall: The Blooming Business of Global Warming

Registration for WOHESC 2020 is open now with special ticket options available for university faculty, staff and students. Early Bird tickets range from \$75-\$225 and are available online at [wohesc.org/register](https://wohesc.org/register) or call 206-459-0595.

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### **Conference Details**

**Washington and Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) 2020**

**Monday, March 2 – Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

University of Oregon | Erb Memorial Union Building | Eugene, Oregon

Tickets available at [wohesc.org/register](https://wohesc.org/register) or via phone at 503-226-2377

**About WOHESC**

The Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC), produced by Social Enterprises, Inc., is a platform for inspiring change, facilitating action, and promoting collaboration related to sustainability within the region's higher education institutions. Conversation, workshops, and networking opportunities will empower participants to advance environmental performance at Washington and Oregon State institutions of higher education. More at [wohesc.org](http://wohesc.org).