HIGHER EDUCATION
SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

Inspire *change*, facilitate *action* and *collaborate* with fellow higher education institutions.

February 10-12, 2021

SOUTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

# Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference
## February 10-12, 2021 | South Seattle College

## Event Summary
The Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) is an opportunity for collective direction and solidarity in higher education for our region. As political, social and environmental issues become more complex, WOHESC convenes and empowers stakeholders who are driving leadership and generating solutions for a more sustainable, just and equitable future. Our aim is to both enliven the role of higher education in the future of the Cascadia region and the role students play in a future world.

## Conference Theme: People, Planet, People: Envisioning Higher Education Sustainability and Resiliency in 2030
WOHESC 2021 will continue to work to advance equity, diversity and inclusion through conference thematic elements, speakers and attendees. We aim to examine systemic change and operating principles through the lens of equity, diversity and inclusion to generate dialogue and guide and inspire action. This year, we focus on People, Planet, People: Envisioning Higher Education Sustainability and Resiliency in 2030. After all that we've learned in 2020, what can we see for the next 10 years?

## 2021 Host Campus – South Seattle College
Established in 1969 and located on an 87-acre hilltop campus in West Seattle, South Seattle College offers panoramic views of the Seattle skyline and surrounding mountains. This unique setting serves as a portal of opportunity for students with diverse needs to meet their educational and career goals. We are excited about being the first community college to host WOHESC/WAHESC! We look forward to welcoming you to our unique campus, so we can learn from one another on how to move toward more sustainable campuses and communities.

## Social Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
One of the highest priorities for the WOHESC program is to be diverse, equitable, and inclusive. We strive to weave DEI throughout conference thematic elements, speakers and attendees. It is important to us to include equity and diversity across all groups including race, color, religion, national origin, political affiliation or belief, disability, age, gender identity, socioeconomic background, sexual orientation, institution, or industry background. Submissions to the Call for Proposals that account for DEI, either directly or indirectly, will be given preference in the selection and program development process. In addition, it is our policy not to accept proposals without diversity represented in the proposed speaker line-up (ie submissions with all white male speakers, all from the same company or industry, or speakers without diversity will not be accepted). We encourage a thoughtful process when selecting the speakers for your proposal; consider things like whether the panel represents a diverse set of views and are new voices and perspectives being prioritized.

## Proposal Selection Criteria
o **Actionable and Transferable** We want attendees to leave our sessions with a skill they can put to use, a project they can implement, or new knowledge of a subject to take back to their own work. Generating meaningful and actionable learning objectives and ideas that transfer between institutions and organizational partners will launch discussion about overcoming the limitations of replication and increase likelihood of selection for inclusion in the conference program.
o **Creativity of Subject Matter.** We are interested in creative problem solving that goes beyond what has been tried before and will inspire action and thinking outside of the box. We are particularly looking for innovative proposals that will inspire solution-building in the sessions with attendees.
o **Connectivity.** We seek proposals that assemble linkages among faculty and curriculum development activities, campus operations, research, student affairs, and student initiatives. This event aspires to bring stakeholders together from separate divisions of the campus to create collaboration and to break-down traditional silos.

- o **Quality.** We are looking for high quality session abstracts that describe how the proposal will convey a clearly articulated subject and objective. We are dedicated to ensuring that the presentations at our conference meet the high standards of the academic institutions that host the conference.
- o **Interaction.** Above all, our selection team is committed to proposals that will bring an engaging delivery of presentations and inclusive interaction for everyone. Preference will be given to proposals that outline participative and experiential formats.
- o **Social Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.** WOHESC strives to weave DEI throughout conference thematic elements, speakers and attendees. Submissions that account for this topic, either directly or indirectly, will be given preference in the selection and program development process.

## Topic Areas
WOHESC is seeking, but is not limited to, submissions from the list of topics outlined below:

### Social Justice, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) – integrated into all aspects of the program
- o Social and environmental justice
- o Integrating justice, addressing environmental privilege
- o Integrating equity into a climate action plan
- o Eco-social justice as a way to connect sustainability to equity
- o Significance of environmental privilege
- o Applying critical race theory
- o How sustainability programs can support social justice initiatives
- o Indigenous ways of knowing sustainability practices
- o Anti-racist institutions and commitments

### Student Leadership
- o Student-led sustainability DEI initiatives
- o Student research
- o Student's impact on their communities
- o Professional development for students
- o Students and local industry partnerships
- o Getting started and student-led program development
- o Organizing a campaign
- o How students can effectively work with administration and faculty
- o Resilience during a crisis training

### Wellness
- o Dealing with food insecurity
- o Dealing with climate anxiety and environmental grief
- o Spirituality in environmental studies
- o Developing meaningful interactions for change
- o Individual action on overconsumption
- o Paradigm shifts and behavior change
- o Addressing sustainability during a pandemic

### Academics
- o Integrating sustainability across the curriculum
- o Overcoming challenges of sustainability work at smaller community colleges
- o Assessments of student sustainability literacy
- o Coursework focused on service learning or community-based research
- o Cross-departmental learning
- o New curricular pathways and concentrations/minors in sustainability
- o Universities and colleges as living labs
- o Virtual reality's role in education and outreach
- o Alternatives to the traditional economic paradigm. Sustainable recovery in and after a pandemic.

### Engagement
- o Institutional cross collaboration to address climate change at a regional level
- o Engaging students, faculty and staff about sustainability and social justice
- o How to motivate staff to get involved beyond just recycling and composting
- o How to bridge the gap in communication that exists across political party lines
- o How to get people involved, motivated, engaged right now beyond personal conservation efforts, focused on the urgency of climate change
- o How to promote a zero-waste environment for students on campus to develop positive life-long habits

- How can veganism, zero waste, or minimalism influence our carbon footprint and impact on the planet
- Program development – how to start sustainability program with reduced/limited funding
- Building resilience through social capacity
- Repurposing/mending workshop
- Volunteering and sustainability
- Making connections with teachers & getting support
- Social media outreach
- Communication/getting your message across online

## Community
- Public policy advocacy and opportunities
- Community building; social infrastructure
- Community based partnerships
- Experiential learning
- Current events in sustainability and actions we need to support
- Community collaborations, engagement and outreach
- Economic inequity
- Business case studies and career opportunities
- Youth and student activism on a community scale
- Statewide sustainability literacy requirements
- Nonprofit, private sector and government work on climate change mitigation and innovative practices
- Linking higher ed to state and regional scale disaster and emergency preparedness - best practices sharing
- Workshop on getting a job in sustainability
- Building on indigenous knowledge and conscious decision-making to create an equitable and sustainable community
- How to build community when you can't get together physically
- B-corps, corporate social responsibility, and greenwashing

## Operations & Facilities
- Ecology and campus landscape
- LEED threshold comparisons between campuses
- Energy efficiency both in redesigning existing facilities or in development of new facilities
- Ending single use plastics
- Sustainable purchasing
- Sustainable facilities management best practices
- Communicating sustainable practices to the campus community
- Clean energy, energy & water efficiency and other cost saving operational measures
- Scaling sustainable food
- Preserving the natural habitat
- Sustainability in campus master plans
- Tracking progress
- Working with campus administrators
- Waste reduction and consumption; reuse and repurposing
- Creating a restorative campus
- Lowering carbon footprint through food purchasing
- Addressing wasted water on campuses (ex. leaky sprinklers, toilets, faucets, etc.)
- Reducing chemical (ex. fertilizers) on campuses
- Pouring rights contracts
- Left over text over programs
- Bottle deposit collection programs
- Bees on campus
- Creating and achieving resiliency
- Transitioning away from natural gas and other fossil fuel-based heating

## Planning and Administration
- Resiliency planning
- Pandemic preparedness
- Process and project management
- Addressing small scale schools
- Institutional engagement
- How administrators can motivate staff to get involved and vice versa
- Divestment
- Funding university sustainability

- o Strategic climate action planning
- o Responses to state legislation

## Breakout Session Styles (75 minutes in length)
WOHESC is seeking, but is not limited to, submissions for different session styles described in detail below.

### Case Study/Speakers (for inclusion as a part of a session or panel)
Submit a new and original case study that demonstrates leadership, busting the status quo and developing inventive breakthroughs in thinking. This could be combined with other case studies/speakers into one inclusive session.

### Participative Panel Discussion (3-4 speakers and a moderator)
An interactive version of conventional panel presentations with 3-4 speakers and a moderator leading the group discussion; emphasis will be on drawing connections between the panelists' perspectives. The aim will be to both share fresh ideas and generate new knowledge amongst the participants in the room.

### Interactive Workshop (facilitated conversations for problem solving)
Alternative formats for hands-on, experiential learning; sessions can be outlined in any structure depending on the topic areas and selected proposals. Designed to provide space and facilitation for group discussion, these sessions will bring mixed perspectives together to tackle the bigger picture sustainability challenges facing higher education. These sessions will require experienced facilitators to introduce the topic and provide background information to the room. Proposals will require additional information including a session timing outline and a session pedagogy including learning design, activities and engagement tasks and actionable takeaways.

### Solutions Generators
These sessions consist of attendees sharing, in about 5 minutes or less, a problem that they are having. These problems can be conceptual or practical. You will explain the problem you are having (for example, attracting diverse participation in your programming or considering how social justice can be implemented into your transportation plan), and you and the audience members will brainstorm ideas to address this problem. These 15 minute sessions are designed to allow people to present their problems, rather than their expertise. These sessions give participants an opportunity for hands-on, interactions sessions that can inspire actionable takeaways.

**PLEASE NOTE**: WOHESC reserves the right to make changes to submissions and require alternative combinations of speakers and case studies to most effectively shape each session's content and the conference sustainable learning experience as a whole.

## Posters
The Planning Committee invites proposals for posters to be displayed for the duration of the conference in our venue foyer and highlighted during a dedicated part of the program. The goal of the posters is to showcase a range of ongoing sustainability projects and research via visual presentation of a topic allowing viewers to learn on their own while the presenter discusses particular points in one-on-one or small group conversations.

To submit a proposal for a poster, please use the online proposal submission form below. Be sure to provide a description of the project to be highlighted, how it contributes to the overall sustainability of your campus, and how it addresses the conference theme. Posters must be printed and mounted by presenter; WOHESC will not be responsible for printing posters.

## Speaker Guidelines
Presentations are not meant to be a platform for business promotion. WOHESC requests that all proposals tie directly to **offering educational outcomes and actionable next steps/takeaways for attendees**. Speakers are responsible for confirming that they have the right to use and will acquire the licenses needed for any copyrighted material used in the presentation. We will ask all speakers to sign a waiver if they wish to share their presentation materials through WOHESC communication channels. Speakers with accepted proposals will be expected to register for and attend the conference for a special discounted speaker rate, at their own expense.

## How to Submit

**Click here to submit!**

All proposals must be submitted through our **online submission form**. All information outlined below is required submitted proposals:

- Submitter's name and contact: "Submitter" is the individual completing the online form and who will be available to answer any questions about its contents, regardless of whether he/she is the proposed speaker.
- Proposal Title (20 words maximum)
- Abstract (500 words maximum)
- Session Description (3-4 sentences that will be published as a part of the conference program)
- Proposal type/session style
- Relevant Audience- please specify if you are submitting your session for a student focused audience
- Learning objectives (please list 3-4 lessons/insights the audience will take away from this session)
- Additional Speakers (you should secure permission from speakers before including them in the submission )

Interactive Workshop proposals will require the below additional information:
- Session timing outline
- Session pedagogy including learning design, activities and engagement tasks and **actionable takeaways achieved from attending the workshop**. Please also make note of any special materials, room structure or capabilities your session requires.

The following information will be requested, but optional to complete in the submission form for the submitter and speakers:
- What preferred pronoun(s) do you use?
- How old are you?
- I identify my ethnicity as _____.

## Call for Proposals Timeline

- **Tuesday, May 12th 2020 - Call for Proposals Issued**
- **Friday, September 18th 2020 - Call for Proposals Submission Deadline**
- **Friday, October 16th 2020 - CFP Selection Decisions Announced**
- **Tuesday, November 10th 2020 – Full Conference Program Published Online**
- **February 10-12, 2021 – WOHESC 2021 Event Dates**