For Immediate Release // Tuesday, May 23, 2017 Press Contact: Noel Sandberg, <u>noel@WOHESC.org</u>



WASHINGTON AND OREGON JOIN FORCES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE *Faculty, staff and students in higher education are invited to submit proposals for sessions and speakers*

PORTLAND, Ore. – Higher education institutions in Washington and Oregon have joined forces to create the 2018 Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC), hosted at Portland State University. The conference formerly convened separately as a WAHESC and OHESC, in 2018 will inspire attendees to take action through facilitated collaboration and networking among students, faculty and operational staff on campuses in the region.

WOHESC will incorporate a regional focus, with dialogue that specifically addresses issues around sustainability in the Pacific Northwest, and solutions will be tailored for implementation in our region's unique political, social, economic and environmental climate. Students will have the opportunity to learn from and share ideas with sustainability leaders from the area, and will walk away with actionable takeaways to implement on their campuses.

"WOHESC brings together thought leaders, experienced practitioners, and engaged researchers to explore the sustainability challenges, opportunities and solutions our communities are facing," said Jenny McNamara, WOHESC 2018 Presenting Host Partner and Campus Sustainability Director at Portland State University. "Stronger together, we hope to catalyze meaningful change not only at an institutional level, but collectively throughout the Pacific Northwest."

We are currently accepting proposals for speakers, sessions, and case studies for WOHESC 2018, with a spotlight on equity and diversity, along with planning for equitable actions through climate resilience. The deadline for WOHESC program submissions is **Monday, July 17, 2017**.

Call Now Open for Speakers, Sessions, and Case Studies in the following topic categories:

- Academics
- Engagement
- Innovation & Leadership
- o **Operations**
- Planning and Administration

Proposal guidelines and submission information can be found here: http://wohesc.org/downloads/WOHESC18_CFP.pdf

About Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC):

The Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) is a platform for empowering and inspiring change making, facilitating action, and for sharing, networking and collaboration related to sustainability within the region. WOHESC 2018 features two days of sustainability-related presentations, workshops, tours and networking for higher education faculty, operational staff, administrators, students, and student development staff serving in a variety of roles around sustainability on higher education campuses in the region.

Event Details:

Washington & Oregon Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) will take place **February 6-8, 2018** at Portland State University in the Smith Memorial Student Union in Portland, Oregon.

Who Should Attend:

- Faculty from across disciplines who teach and/or research interdisciplinary campus sustainability issues ranging from carbon emissions, sustainability education, food systems, planning, community connections, waste reduction and more.
- **Operational Staff** who want to learn more about energy conservation, waste reduction, carbon emissions, food procurement, green cleaning, and organic landscape practices.
- **Administrators** who want to explore sustainability planning, infrastructure, marketing, project funding, and carbon reduction goals. Includes university presidents, vice-presidents, CFOs, and department directors.
- **Students** who are interested in furthering sustainability at their home campus, including student leaders, researchers, activists, peer educators, club members, and others.
- Student Development Staff who would like to learn more about infusing sustainable practices and concepts into residence halls, student government, student clubs, student activism, student recreation, new student services, career services, and other areas.

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