

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Regional Higher Education Leaders to Discuss Future of Diversity, Sustainability on Campus**

*Senior leadership from Portland State University, University of Oregon, University of Washington and more to gather at WA & OR Higher Education Sustainability Conference, February 6-8, 2018.*

**January 10, 2018 (PORTLAND, ORE.)** – Operations staff, students and high-level faculty from colleges and universities in Washington and Oregon will join forces with the mission to explore and address diversity and equity issues in higher education. The two-day Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC), hosted by Portland State University **February 6-8, 2018**, will feature a full program dedicated to exploring the opportunities and barriers of marginalized and vulnerable communities through environmental, climate, and social justice work.

Showing their commitment to Diversity and Inclusion in the upcoming year, Chief Diversity Officers from major higher education institutions in the region will be present for the plenary entitled **“Collaborative Leadership to Align Sustainability Programming with Diverse Communities”** to explore the issues of race, class, gender and privilege, and how they relate to the vitally important work of sustainability on campuses. The panel consists of **Jade Aguilar** of Willamette University, **Rickey Hall** of University of Washington, and **Dr. Carmen Suarez** of Portland State University. Panelists will also discuss strategies and opportunities for greater collaboration, and offer stories and experiences at their institutions.

“Diversity, equity, and sustainability are increasingly becoming a priority on campuses in the Pacific Northwest,” said WOHESC organizer Ericka Dickey-Nelson. “The collaboration of top executives from major schools in the region at WOHESC shows their commitment to these initiatives.”

Five of Washington and Oregon's esteemed college and university Executives will also be collaborating for a special plenary entitled **“The Big Picture: Campus Sustainability Through the Lens of Executive Leadership”**. **Robert Liberty** of Portland State University, **Michael Harwood** of University of Oregon, **Carol Long** of Willamette University, **Mark Mitsui** of Portland Community College, and **Barbara Wingerson** of University of Washington will share unique perspectives on integrating sustainable systems across an academic system, building a thriving campus environment around sustainability efforts, and real-world benefits for those institutions investing in the triple bottom line.

### **Other Notable Speakers Include**

**Rahmat Shoureshi** | President, Portland State University.

**Dr. Brian Gibbs, Ph.D., M.P.A.** | Vice President, Equity and Inclusion, OHSU.

**Steve Mital** | Sustainability Director, University of Oregon

**Jessica Finn Coven** | Chief Resilience Officer, City of Seattle, Office of Sustainability & Environment.

**Pandora Thomas** | Co-Founder of Black Permaculture Network, Teacher, Speaker, Writer, Designer

A complete program and list of speakers can be found online at [wohesc.org](http://wohesc.org). Ticket packages are available for university faculty, staff and students. Tickets range from \$50-\$250, and are available at [wohesc.org/register](http://wohesc.org/register) or via phone at 503-226-2377.

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### **Event Details**

WOHESC 2018, presenting host Portland State University

**Tuesday, February 6 – Thursday, February 8, 2018**

Portland State University | Smith Memorial Student Union

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

### **About WOHESC**

The Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) is produced by Social Enterprises, Inc., a social impact event organization committed to enhancing local communities by creating high-level, revenue-generating, innovative events that educate attendees and help create a socially-driven, sustainably minded world. Social Enterprises is a proud B Corporation committed to producing sustainable events that minimize environmental impacts and make positive economic and social impacts on the communities we touch. More at [wohesc.org](http://wohesc.org).