

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Noel Sandberg noel@wohesc.org



**Program Announced for the Washington Oregon Cascadia  
Higher Education Sustainability Conference  
March 4-6 at Western Washington University**

*Conference theme is Learning From Place: Solutions Beyond Boundaries*

**January 29, 2024** – The 2024 **Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC)** taking place **March 4-6** at **Western Washington University** is an event built to inspire change, facilitate action, and promote collaboration around sustainability within the Cascadia region's higher education institutions. Tours, keynotes, plenaries, sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities give participants the tools to advance environmental and social justice at their own higher education institutions after attending the conference.

The noted geographer, Dr. Yi-Fu Tuan coined the term “topophilia” as the affective bond with one's environment. The 2024 WOHESC theme of Learning From Place: Solutions Beyond Boundaries builds on that thought by using the environment to ground our inquiries that span politically drawn boundaries to be inclusive of place within a bioregion.

As a regional conference, the WOHESC program addresses the priority issues for higher education in the Cascadia region, with a broader lens on a national or global scale.

### **2024 Conference Highlights**

#### **Behind-the-Scenes Tours:**

- Western Washington University Campus Sustainability Tour including Outback Farm
- Western Washington University Sculpture Collection Tour

- Bellingham Public Schools Administration Building | Reducing Carbon Footprint by Utilizing Mass Timber *presented by DCI Engineers, RMC Architects and Dawson Construction*
- Western Washington University Kaiser Borsari Hall Tour

### **Keynote Speakers:**

- Elin Kelsey, PhD | Spokesperson, Scholar and Educator; Author of *Hope Matters: Why Changing the Way We Think Is Critical to Solving the Environmental Crisis*
- Jessica Hernandez, PhD | Indigenous Scholar, Scientist, Community Advocate and Author of *Fresh Banana Leaves*
- Running Grass | Director, Three Circles Center; Member, WA Environmental Justice Council
- Belinda Chin | Lead, Race & Social Justice Change Team and Acting Manager, Public Programs, Cedar River Watershed Education Center City of Seattle and Seattle Public Utilities

### **Notable Speakers:**

- Grace Wang | Professor and Chair, Dept. of Urban & Environmental Planning & Policy and Director, Sustainability Engagement Institute, Western Washington University
- Anoushka Adhav | Project Manager, King County Climate Team
- Laural Ballew | Executive Director, Office of Tribal Relations, Western Washington University
- Lexi Brewer | Director of Sustainability, University of Puget Sound
- Ginny Broadhurst | Director, Salish Sea Institute
- Clara Castronovo | State Board Chair, California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG) Students
- Mike Chang | Director of Equity, Cascadia Consulting Group
- Stephan Classen | Assistant Director of Sustainable Practices, Cascadia College
- Sheina Crystal | Director of Communications and Campaigns, Re:wild Your Campus
- Amy Dvorak | Sustainability Director, Lewis & Clark College
- Brian Goldcrump | Senior Mechanical Engineer, McKinstry
- Todd Mitchell, swálitub | Environmental Director, Swinomish Tribe - Dept of Environmental Protection
- David Ortiz | Founding Faculty in Communication, Climate Justice and Social Justice, and Media Studies, Cascadia College
- Emily Salzberg | Managing Director, Clean Buildings Unit, Washington State Department of Commerce

## **Featured Sessions:**

- Student Sustainability Action Challenge
- Tribal Plenary Panel
- Addressing Climate Anxiety on Campus
- Bridging the Border: Challenges and Opportunities in the Salish Sea Region
- Youth Leadership in Action: Shaping the Future of King County's Climate Workforce  
*presented by King County and Green Tools*
- [WORKSHOP] Integrating Critical Values into Student Sustainability Programming
- Immersive Learning to Better Know Home and Understand Global Issues
- Campus Placekeeping through Decarbonization
- [WORKSHOP] Between Two Worlds: Swinomish Indigenous Science Program for Tribal Students to Learn Environmental Stewardship

## **Conference Details**

### **Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC)**

**March 4-6, 2024**

**Location:** Western Washington University Viking Union | 516 McKenzie Ave, Bellingham, WA 98225

Schedule and Speakers: <http://wohesc.org/program>

Tickets can be purchased [online](#) or by phone at 503.226.2377.

### **About Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference**

The Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) is organized by B Corporation Social Enterprises, Inc. and is an event dedicated to inspiring change, facilitating action, and promoting collaboration related to sustainability within the Cascadia region's higher education institutions. Keynotes, plenaries, workshops, and networking opportunities empower participants to advance environmental performance at their own institutions of higher education. More information at <http://wohesc.org/>.

###