

MEDIA ADVISORY

MEDIA CONTACT: Mia Primrose | mia@wohesc.org



Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference March 5-7, 2025 in Portland, Oregon

February 26, 2025 — The Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) is taking place **Wednesday, March 5th** through **Friday, March 7th** at **Portland Community College Sylvania Campus** in Portland, Oregon. Higher education institution leaders, staff and students from the Cascadia region will join forces to inspire change, facilitate action, and promote collaboration around sustainability and environmental justice.

The 2025 conference theme, **Cultivating Sustainable Communities**, will explore the intentional care required to build enduring and inclusive communities across multiple levels, from neighborhoods and campuses to relationships with the natural world.

2025 Conference Program Highlights:

Keynote Speakers:

- Dr. Adrien L. Bennings | President, Portland Community College
- Brianna Fruean | Pacific Climate Warrior / Activist / Environmental Advocate
- Sarah Jaquette Ray | Author, *A Field Guide to Climate Anxiety: How to Keep Your Cool on a Warming Planet*
- Judy Bluehorse Skelton | Associate Professor (Ret.), Indigenous Nations Studies, Portland State University

Notable Speakers:

- Madeline Ostrander | Author, *At Home on an Unruly Planet*
- Makerusa Porotesano | Director of Multicultural Services, Portland Community College (PCC)
- Thea Prieto | Author, *From the Caves*
- Gabe Seoships | Executive Director, Friends of Tryon Creek
- Erin Sharkey | Author, *A Darker Wilderness: Black Nature Writing from Soil to Stars*

Plenaries:

- Authors Plenary: Intersections and Constellations – On Being Human Now and in the Future
- Traditional Teachings for a Modern Crisis: Indigenous Climate Solutions

Special Features:

- Student Sustainability Action Challenge - Win Cash Prizes!
- Art in Nature Workshop - Cultivating Presence in Nature
- Author Book Signing - *From the Caves; Field Guide to Climate Anxiety; At Home on an Unruly Planet and A Darker Wilderness: Black Nature Writing from Soil to Stars*

Tours:

- Lewis & Clark College Experimental Art Research (EAR) Forest Tour
- Portland Community College Rock Creek Walking Tour
- Portland Community College Metro Opportunity Center/OC42: A Holistic Approach to Community and Sustainability
- Urban Rejuvenation: Portland State University's Oak Savanna and Vernier Science Center

Featured Sessions:

- Impact Networks: Creating Change in a Complex World
- Sustainable Strategies for Student Engagement
- Hands-on Activities to Decrease Eco-Anxiety and Climate Change Grief: Building Resilience through Community
- Cultivating Connections: Designing a Hub for Community-Centric Education

Press Passes, Interview Requests, and Photos - Contact: mia@wohesc.org.

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

Date: March 5-7, 2025

Location: Portland Community College Sylvania Campus - 12000 SW 49th Avenue Portland, OR 97219

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

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

About WOHESC

The Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) is a platform for inspiring change, facilitating action, and promoting collaboration related to sustainability and social justice within the region's higher education institutions. As a regional conference, WOHESC promotes a local focus, with dialogue specifically addressing issues in the Cascadia region. Solutions will be tailored for implementation and action in our unique political, social, economic, and environmental climate. More information at <https://wohesc.org/>.

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