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**Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC)  
Still We Rise: Intergenerational Leadership for a Sustainable Future  
March 2–4, 2026 at University of Washington Seattle**

**January 9, 2026** – The 2026 **Washington Oregon Cascadia Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC)** has announced its conference program taking place **March 2–4, 2026** at University of Washington Seattle. Bringing together students, faculty, staff, administrators, and community partners from across the Cascadia region, WOHESC 2026 will create change, foster collaboration, and drive action on sustainability in higher education.

The conference serves as a space for contributors, advocates, and change-makers to share actionable solutions and cultivate lasting impact within their institutions and communities. The 2026 conference theme, **Still We Rise: Intergenerational Leadership for a Sustainable Future**, will explore how collective leadership across generations can shape resilient and regenerative systems within higher education and beyond.

**2026 Conference Highlights**

**Keynote Speakers**

WOHESC 2026 features keynote speakers Amy Bowers Cordalis and Aimée Okotie-Oyekan, two visionary leaders whose work spans Indigenous sovereignty, ecological restoration, cultural healing and community-driven futures. Together, they invite attendees to reimagine justice-centered sustainability through intergenerational leadership and collective care.

- Amy Bowers Cordalis | UN Champion of the Earth, Time 100 Climate Leader; Author, *The Water Remembers*
- Aimée Okotie-Oyekan | Founder and Principal, Aiyé Collaborative

## **Authors Plenary - Perfectly Imperfect: Memory, Speculation, and Mindful Action**

This powerful plenary brings together acclaimed authors whose work uses memory, speculation, and lived experience to confront harm, explore interdependence, and grapple with sustainability in an imperfect world.

### **Featured Author Speakers:**

#### **Amy Bowers Cordalis | *The Water Remembers***

Explores Indigenous memory, sovereignty, and ecological restoration as pathways to healing relationships between people and place.

#### **Karen Thompson Walker | *The Strange Case of Jane O; The Age of Miracles; The Dreamers***

Uses speculative fiction to illuminate human vulnerability, resilience, and our shared ecological fate.

#### **Johanna Stoberock | *Pigs: A Novel***

Examines power, exploitation, and complicity through stories that challenge readers to confront uncomfortable truths.

#### **Laurie Frankel | *One Two Three***

Tells deeply human stories about community, grief, and environmental injustice, centering empathy as a force for change.

#### **Anu Taranath | *Beyond Guilt Trips: Mindful Travel in an Unequal World***

Invites reflection on responsibility, belonging, and ethical engagement in a deeply unequal and interconnected world.

## **Intergenerational Student Leadership Plenary**

Student leaders from across the Pacific Northwest connect to share how mentorship, collaboration, and bold ideas are transforming higher education into a catalyst for climate action and resilient communities built on equality.

### **Tours:**

- University of Washington Seattle
  - Power Plant Tour
  - Grounds Management Campus Sustainability Initiatives
  - Campus Sustainability Fund Project Tour
  - Green Buildings Showcase
  - UW Farm: An On-Campus Tour of a Living Laboratory
  - Project Indoor Farm: Empowering Students to Participate Directly in Urban Food Systems
- University of Washington Bothell/Cascadia College Campus Sustainability Tour
- Restoring Water, Land, and Community at Washington Park Arboretum Walking Tour
- Union Bay Natural Area, Natural and Cultural Tour

### **Conference Details**

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

**Date:** **March 2–4, 2026**

**Location:** University of Washington Husky Union Building (HUB)  
4001 E Stevens Way NE, Seattle, Washington 98195

**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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