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Reporters interested in a speaker interview or covering the event with a media pass may contact Noel Sandberg at noel@wohesc.org or 503.226.2377.



Youth Climate Activist and Prominent Writers to Discuss Climate Change Coverage and Lawsuit Progress at 2020 Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference

February 5, 2020 (Eugene, OR) – As political, social and environmental issues become more complex and intertwined, the Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC), convening **March 2-4** at the University of Oregon in Eugene, will empower stakeholders who are driving leadership and generating solutions for a more sustainable, just and equitable future. The aim of the conference is to both enliven the role of higher education in the future of Washington and Oregon and the role students play in a sustainable future world.

It is well known to students and youth that climate change, global warming, the climate crisis, the climate emergency – whatever you call it – it is the existential threat of our time. The way we read, and write, about the effects of climate change can vastly affect our understanding of the issue and the ways we can combat the climate crisis.

During the **Understanding the Crisis of our Time: Writing About Climate Change** plenary session, a panel of diverse writers will talk about their approaches to writing about the climate crisis in their varied disciplines. Expert speakers include investigative journalist McKenzie Funk; geographer, glaciologist, and National Geographic Explorer M. Jackson; memoirist and nature writer Rebecca Lawton, and novelist and journalist Omar El Akkad. This panel will explore the role writing plays in how we understand, record, and work to solve the climate crisis.

Immediately following their discussion, **Kelsey Juliana**, the Youth Climate Activist and Plaintiff in the historic *Juliana v. United States* will take the stage. Kelsey was 15 when she co-filed the lawsuit, with the support of nonprofit Our Children's Trust, against the Oregon State Governor, asking for a climate

emissions reduction plan to protect the atmosphere under the public trust doctrine. She will give an update on the status of the lawsuit, which has recently experienced a setback in which a divided ninth circuit court ruled that the case must be addressed by the executive and legislative branches.

The 2020 WOHESC program encompasses two full days of educational content, featuring higher education expert leaders in diversity, equity inclusion, engagement, academics, operations, facilities and students, who will share their experiences and recommend action on topics ranging from student led initiatives, waste reduction, alternative energy, sustainable agriculture, environmental justice, and more. The full program and speaker list can be found at wohesc.org/program.

Registration for WOHESC 2020 is open now with special ticket options available for university faculty, staff and students. Tickets range from \$75-\$299 and are available online at wohesc.org/register or call 503-226-2377.

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Conference Details

Washington and Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) 2020 Monday, March 2 – Wednesday, March 4, 2020

University of Oregon | Erb Memorial Union Building | Eugene, Oregon

Tickets available at wohesc.org/register or via phone at 503-226-2377

About WOHESC

The Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC), produced by Social Enterprises, Inc., is a platform for inspiring change, facilitating action, and promoting collaboration related to sustainability within the region's higher education institutions. Conversation, workshops, and networking opportunities will empower participants to advance environmental performance at Washington and Oregon State institutions of higher education. More at wohesc.org.