

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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**February 2, 2021** — February 2, 2021 — The Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) will take place Thursday, February 11th – Friday, February 12th in an online virtual format, available from any location. Higher education institutions from the Cascadia region will join forces to inspire change, facilitate action, and promote collaboration around sustainability and environmental justice.

The 2021 conference program theme explores People, Planet, People - Envisioning Higher Education Sustainability and Resiliency in 2030, aiming for all attendees and stakeholders to do better by presenting sustainability research and initiatives that focus on just and equitable economies, healthy and clean environments, and inclusive and fair societies. Organizers were able to weave diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout conference thematic elements, speakers, and attendees in order to uplift the perspectives of those working at the intersections of social justice and environmentalism to create a more sustainable world for all.

### **2021 Conference Program Features:**

- Keynote - Growing the Education Pipeline for Global Healers with Ubax Gardheere, Equitable Development Division Manager at the city of Seattle
- Plenary - Resistance. Reparations. Repair. | Writing our Past, Present, and Future led by University of Oregon and featuring José González; Tim Jensen, Director of Writing, School of Writing, Literature, and Film at Oregon State University and Arianne True, Poet and Teaching Artist from Seattle
- Keynote - Intersectional Vision, Decolonizing Pathways and Principled Practice with Ananda Lee Tan, Director of Shaping Change Collaborative
- Plenary - Climate Grief, Eco-Anxiety, and Mental Health in the Face of Overlapping Crises on how the emotional weight of the pandemic and an intensified reckoning with the structural injustices of our society have intensified stress and anxiety. Experts will describe positive actions and strategies we can take and the importance of giving space to these often overlooked aspects of tackling the climate crisis and social injustice.

- Closing Segment - Your Personal and Environmental Justice Responsibilities to the Native, Indigenous and First Nations People to learn ways institutions and organizations can build relations with indigenous communities to show their commitment to the Land both here and elsewhere while honoring their sovereignty, cultural heritage, and lives.

The Washington & Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) is a platform for inspiring change, facilitating action, and promoting collaboration related to sustainability within the Cascadia region's higher education institutions. In-depth sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities will empower participants to advance environmental performance at participating institutions and partners of higher education and beyond.

When and Where: Thursday, February 11 – Friday, February 12

Available online via Zoom from any location

Notable Speakers:

- Ananda Lee Tan | Director, Shaping Change Collaborative
- Claudia Frere-Anderson | Director, University of Washington Sustainability
- Jenny McNamara | Chief Sustainability Officer, Portland State University
- Kshamta Hunter | Sustainability Student Engagement Manager, University of British Columbia
- Tim Jensen | Director of Writing, School of Writing, Literature, and Film, Oregon State University
- Ubax Gardheere | Equity Strategies Manager, City of Seattle

Program schedule and details can be found online: <http://wohesc.org/program/>

Press Passes, Interview Requests, and Photos: Please contact Ericka Nelson at [ericka@wohesc.org](mailto:ericka@wohesc.org).

## **Event Details**

Tickets are \$50 and available online at <http://wohesc.org/register/> or via phone toll-free at 1.855.740.8417.

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

The Washington Oregon Higher Education Sustainability Conference (WOHESC) is organized by B Corporation Social Enterprises, Inc. and is a platform for inspiring change, facilitating action, and promoting collaboration related to sustainability and social justice within the Cascadia region's higher education institutions. Conversation, workshops, and networking opportunities will empower participants to advance practices and drive action at participating institutions of higher education. More information at <http://wohesc.org/>.

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