

October 17, 2011

Dear AAWCC of Oregon members,

Autumn has arrived, and with it our familiar Oregon rain and fewer sunny days...but it also beckons the beginning of a new academic year and hundreds of eager students walking through our front doors, ready to learn! Their enthusiasm is what makes our work so rewarding and fulfilling. Each day I am grateful for the students and colleagues I get to work with and learn from...and that means all of the members of Oregon's AAWCC chapter, as well.



My two years as your president have flown by – I can hardly believe that at the close of the calendar year it will be time for me to move into the position of past-president. But before I do, I have the honor of saluting our organization's 25 years of growth and development at this year's fall conference – and that's something pretty special!

Over the past 25 years many of us long-time members have witnessed and contributed to the incredible evolution of Oregon's AAWCC chapter – officially the only AAWCC state chapter in the country. On a national level, what started as a fledgling idea in 1973 mushroomed to what it is today – the American Association of Women in Community Colleges, with representation in more than 50 states, provinces and territories across the United States, that addresses current and timely industry topics and provides professional development opportunities for its members.

Here in Oregon we aim to echo this approach – and also create activities as part of our conferences that nourish the spirit and promote a healthy work/life balance. Because in so doing, we know that we'll be more effective and productive . . .and that enables us to best serve our students.

We'll have an opportunity to do all this – and celebrate our 25-year history – next month at the annual fall conference. **“Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future”** will take place **Nov. 17-18**, again at the **Embassy Suites Hotel in Tigard**.

This year's conference features an exciting slate of activities and a variety of workshops and presentations. Keynote addresses include those given by Shelley Moon, a poet, playwright, performer, and instigator of social change ([www.creativevoiceinyou.com](http://www.creativevoiceinyou.com)), and Oregon's very own Dr. Mary Spilde, president of Lane Community College and a leader at the national level of both the American Association of Community Colleges and the American Association of Women in Community Colleges. For more information or to register for the conference, visit: <http://www.aawccoregon.org/fall-conference/>. And don't dally – deadlines for hotel reservations and scholarship applications are fast-approaching!

Thank you for your support, your enthusiasm and your dedication to AAWCC. I have so enjoyed serving you these past two years, and I look forward to continuing our work together. See you next month at the conference.

Best regards,

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