Mentor Program Wins National Award!

The AAWCC Board of Directors takes pride in honoring outstanding women leaders and model programs from across the nation each year. The Model Program Award celebrates effective programs in community colleges addressing the needs of women. This year, the National AAWCC Model Program Award was awarded to AAWCC Oregon for our Statewide Mentorship Program.

Now in its second year, the AAWCC Oregon mentorship program is designed to facilitate professional development connections between individuals, such as:
- Those aspiring to further develop within their career in community colleges
- Those willing to share their experiences and provide insight
- Those who might envision themselves in another position and are ready to model where they wish to go

The 2020 Model Program Award marks the third for AAWCC Oregon. Previous awards were given for the AAWCC Oregon Fall Conference and the Oregon Institute for Leadership Development.

AAWCC Summer Conference

July 16, 2020
Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, OR

Registration is now open for the 2020 Summer Conference.

The conference theme this year is Choose Courage! We’ve all had to be more courageous this year in the way that we have had to view and interact with the world and our communities. In light of the current concerns regarding social distancing and the economic consequences, AAWCC Oregon will be offering the summer conference in person AND through virtual methods.

Registration to attend in person is $50; virtual attendance is $25. The Oregon Garden Resort will offer a discounted rate of $94 per night for those who are staying over. Look for more information after registration begins on May 1 or see our website at http://www.aawccoregon.org/summer-conference/

OILD 2020 Cancelled

We are living in an unprecedented time right now due to COVID-19 and its threat to our population, and we are seeing many events cancelled and postponed. It is
with heavy hearts that the AAWCC Oregon board must add to those events with the announcement that the Oregon Institute for Leadership Development (OILD) is cancelled for 2020. This decision was not easily reached, but in the end we knew that it was necessary and in the best interest of the safety of our members and attendees.

OILD was developed in the eighties to create a path for women to envision themselves as leaders. Nearly 1,000 women have experienced this intimate, immersion experience held at the Silver Falls Conference Center.

OILD will be back in 2021 so that AAWCC Oregon can continue to develop and nurture leadership skills for those nominated by their colleges as future leaders. Be sure to send your promising community college women in 2021!

I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO

BUT I'M ALREADY SO FAR FROM WHERE I USED TO BE

AND I'M PROUD OF THAT.

President's Message
by Donna Lewelling

CHOOSE COURAGE

Spring represents a time of new beginnings. And as 2020 began, I held hopes that as I entered my 45th trip around the sun it would bring new insights or “vision.” As I sit today and write this letter to all of you, I can honestly say I could have never imagined the insights this year would bring.

So much has happened in this year. A pandemic has taken the entire world by storm. Creating panic, uncertainty, and fear. Yet in the same moments, creating the realization that what we need most in this world is connection, community, and a sense of hope. It’s times like these that I remember why AAWCC is so important to me and likely to all of you.

AAWCC helps give us strength to be courageous in times when we are not sure we have what it takes. It surrounds us by women who have gone before us and along beside us as we navigate unchartered waters. When life deals us lemons, our fellow AAWCC members come along with some water and sugar and help us make lemonade (or maybe something else to make a different beverage). No matter what life throws at us, we know our AAWCC colleagues are there to help us reach our potential and we can call on them no matter what.

This year your AAWCC Board has had to make some very difficult decisions, ones that have actually brought some of us to tears. Cancelling OILD was not taken lightly, we love
those days in the woods, it brings back so many great memories of growth and acceptance. But, with great change, brings great decisions. And often than means relying on courage to make tough decisions. I am thankful to the Board and all of you for your courage and strength as you lead your families, your institutions, and your communities through these difficult times.

As we move toward the summer, let us keep our eye to the future and to our summer conference. The Board wants you to know how much we value each and every one of our members, and so we have decided to be courageous and hold our summer conference. It will look different, but it will happen. Stay tuned for more information – we can’t wait to see you again.

Donna Lewelling
AAWCC Oregon President

**Campus Connections**

The following news comes from chapters and campuses at community colleges from around the state. What’s happening on your campus?

**Chemeketa Community College**

*By Lynn Irvin*

Our Chemeketa chapter invited employees to a coffee and conversation membership drive in January. We served treats, shared pictures from past events, and distributed lots of information about AAWCC as well as new membership forms!

In February, we invited BJ Andersen, director of the Willamette Humane Society, to be a speaker at the chapter’s Remarkable Women lunch series. She was wonderful! She talked about her lifelong passion for animal welfare. We collected pet food and items for the shelter. It was very successful. This is a once-per-term event where we sell soup and a roll for $3 and have had many remarkable women share their passions and experiences.

At this time, Chemeketa’s chapter has a huge pile/stash of clothing collected for our spring clothing sale that will now have to be either a summer of fall clothing sale!

**Lane Community College**

*By Tiana Marrone-Creech*

Lane’s AAWCC Chapter was off to a great start this year with several events and brown bag lunches for our members and college community.

In January, we held our annual AAWCC Rock Painting Party – AAWCC Rocks! Several women from around the college took a little time away from their desks for some creativity and networking. In February, all were invited to the AAWCC Galentine’s Day Tea to celebrate our annual Menstrual Hygiene Drive, share some tea and snacks, and make a crafty Valentine for a pal—or just for themselves! Several items were collected for the menstrual hygiene drive that were donated to students and other women who need help purchasing those necessary items for themselves.

In early March, Lane’s President Margaret Hamilton invited employees and students to attend a tea luncheon and panel discussion with local civic leaders, including Lane’s student government president. The theme was “Where Do We Go From Here? The 19th Amendment 100 Years Later.” The panel discussion focused on challenges still faced today and opportunities for progress through civic engagement.
Carolyn DesJardins Leadership Award

The 2019 AAWCC Oregon Carolyn DesJardins Award went to Vivi Caleffi Prichard. Vivi holds the position of Diversity and Equity Officer for Chemeketa Community College. She works with senior leadership and internal and external diverse communities as she champions, promotes, and implements the gender equity and diversity strategic directions for the college and fosters a community and campus climate that values and actively supports equity and diversity. She was instrumental in creating a Cultural Competence Certificate at Chemeketa, which provides recognition for college employees who engage in cultural awareness professional development. Prior to her current role, Vivi was responsible for leading the college’s efforts toward gender equity in education as Chemeketa’s Title IX Officer. She developed and implemented sexual violence primary prevention and awareness programs throughout the college district and has established partnerships with the community and a confidential reporting program to serve students who experience sexual violence. Vivi has been recognized by the national AAWCC organization and has received their award for outstanding female leader at a community college. She has been a presenter at OILD and at last Fall’s AAWCC Oregon conference. She is tireless in her pursuit of diversity and is an inspiration to all women.

2019 Community College Excellence Award Winners

The AAWCC Oregon Community College Excellence Award celebrates individuals whose accomplishments have made a difference for women at their community college. Recipients are chosen by local AAWCC chapters and receive their award at the Fall Conference. Eight awards were presented at the conference last fall.
Recipients were:

- Julie Smith, Central Oregon Community College
- Yesica Navarro, Chemeketa Community College
- Emeera Mathew, Clatsop Community College
- Sonya James, Linn-Benton Community College
- Elizabeth Perry, Mt. Hood Community College
- Linda Molino, Oregon Coast Community College
- Corinne Hiebert, Portland Community College
- Arlene Dowell, Rogue Community College

The Board awards a certificate to honor the recipient. Nominees need not be members of AAWCC. Nominations for the 2020 AAWCC Excellence Award will be sought in October prior to the Fall Conference.
Master's in Business Administration from Concordia University.

Irene feels lucky to have worked in the Adult Basic Skills Department at CCC as they have always encouraged participation in the AAWCC conferences. Irene had the privilege of participating in OILD, and she sees the difference it has made in her professional and personal life. This is one of the many reasons why she feels fortunate and very excited for the opportunity to be part of the AAWCC Oregon board.

AMBER FULTZ - VP Special Projects

Amber Fultz works at Portland Community College as a Facilities Scheduling Coordinator. She has worked for PCC since 2006 when she started as a student. Amber graduated from Portland State University with her Bachelors of Social Science. She was introduced to AAWCC early in her career and has been an advocate ever since. Amber has served on the Board of her local chapter for the last six years and is the current president. She has attended many local conferences and even a few national conferences. Amber loves to inspire and motivate people, especially women. That is what AAWCC has done and continues to do for her. She believes that leading from where you are is done in small and large acts and anyone can do it.

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Save the Date!

AAWCC Oregon Fall Conference
November 11-13, 2020
Tigard Embassy Suites

More information coming soon!

Newsworthy items happening at your college? If you have items for future newsletters, please e-mail VP of Communications Donna Zmolek at zmolekd@lanecc.edu.

Oregon AAWCC is an organization developed by Oregon women in community colleges for anyone who supports the mission of Oregon AAWCC, to inspire, champion, and celebrate the talents within each of us.

Visit our website