

AAWCC Oregon Summer 2014 Events



AAWCC 2014 Summer Conference at the Oregon Garden Resort

Transitioning into Summer

The AAWCC Oregon Summer Conference was held July 17 at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton. The theme, *Transitions*, was woven into the presentations of all four speakers, each with her own message on dealing with transitions in various aspects of our lives - professional, family, physical, emotional, social, and cultural. We started the day with Dr. Margaret Frimoth from Clatsop Community College who spoke about changing attitudes in feminism and identifying barriers and behaviors to successfully dealing with life's obstacles. Melinda Bullen from Mt. Hood Community College then talked about changes in cultural situations and tackling personal challenges. After lunch, Sara Johnson Sauser kept us alert and active by showing us ways to deal with stress, both good and bad, through laughter, exercise, time with friends, and reflection. We wrapped it up with Teresa Alonso Leon, Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development, a community college success herself, who shared her personal journey from daughter of migrant farm workers to earning her Master's Degree.



Dr. Margaret Frimoth



Teresa Alonso Leon

The day also included taking in the beautiful Oregon Garden, a tour of the Gordon House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, and time with 120 of Oregon's community college colleagues and friends – always a valuable experience as well as a great time to meet and reconnect.

The conference somehow managed to be relaxing and stimulating at the same time. Attendees lent their comments on the day, saying:

“This year's summer conference was quite engaging. Some of the ideas sparked greater conversations and further work to be done even outside the conference. Thanks!”

Amanda Harrison, Portland Community College

“Authentic folks enjoying genuine fun and fellowship! All speakers were outstanding and ‘hit the spot!’”

Joyce Park, Chemeketa Community College

“I appreciated the presentation on cultural change. Today's conversations often refer to ethnicity when speaking about culture, rather than the broader definition involving any social group.”

Tracy Simms, Lane Community College

“I would like to thank AAWCC for giving me the opportunity to attend this year's conference at the Oregon Garden. I would not have been able to attend had it not been for the generous scholarship I received. Thank you for allowing me to soak in all the knowledge and expertise from all the wonderful speakers. They were very knowledgeable and inspirational. I can especially identify with Teresa Alonso Leon and am looking forward to connecting with her further. This was one day out of the year that I got to spend in a beautiful, peaceful place where I was able to lose myself in the beautiful gardens, but also to network among all the professional, independent, strong women who continue to open the way for others like me. I am forever grateful, thank you very much! By the way, I should also mention that the food was excellent!”

Irene Carillo, Clackamas Community College



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To view other pictures from the conference, visit AAWCC's Flickr website at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/aawccoregon/sets>.

Developing Leadership Skills with Strong Women and Natural Beauty

Two dozen community college women from around the state participated in the 25th annual Oregon Institute for Leadership Development at Silver Falls State Park on June 23 - 26, 2014. Spending time away from the demands of work and home lives in the beautiful natural setting of Silver Falls provided a unique experience for these selected women to network, reflect, and strengthen their leadership skills.

The institute not only provided an opportunity to connect with each other, but it also connected the participants with educators, administrators, and community college staff members from around the state.

Those who attended this year had positive experiences that will have an impact as they return to their lives and careers:

"The most valuable advice I received during the OILD conference was that you don't need to fix every relationship with those you work with, you just need to find a way to work together. This was such a relief. I also really enjoyed getting advice on how to deal with problems between co-workers. The other amazing part was getting to know all of these other women and feel the support they offered. Finally, the best part was knowing that these presidents of community colleges welcome questions and help at any time, and you really feel that you are part of a fellowship of women who are there to help you be successful in any leadership opportunity you may have."

Laurel Pederson, Rogue Community College

"Previously, I thought OILD was only for those who were on career tracks to become the president of a community college. I worried that I would be discovered as one who did not have this agenda and feel singled out. I was greatly mistaken. This year's OILD experience was an amazing opportunity for empowerment, growth, and learning with a group of wonderful professionals. It was freeing to join a group of women with a common base and understanding. I reveled in the opportunities to truly listen to others in a new way and express myself freely within a group of close strangers. The experience would benefit any woman who wants to find her place and build a strong network within this large entity of community colleges."

Amanda Harrison, Portland Community College



OILD, Class of 2014!!

OILD Participants

- Shawna Bechtel, Portland Community College*
- Marie Daniels, Portland Community College*
- Stephanie Debner, Mt. Hood Community College*
- Lisa Dunagan, Rogue Community College*
- Lisa Fields, Umpqua Community College*
- Amanda Harrison, Portland Community College*
- Elizabeth Hayes, Clatsop Community College*
- Zahava Jones, Portland Community College*
- Frances Kelly, Klamath Community College*
- Heidi Luquette, Tillamook Bay Community College*
- Jennifer McBratney, Portland Community College*
- Tara Nelson, Portland Community College*
- Laurel Pederson, Rogue Community College*
- Julie Peters, Chemeketa Community College*
- Brynn Pierce, Central Oregon Community College*
- Amber Quinn, Portland Community College*
- Claudia Riumallo, Lane Community College*
- Teresa Robertson, Clackamas Community College*
- Jill Rupert, Chemeketa Community College*
- Sheena Schrock, Linn-Benton Community College*
- Allison Severin, Blue Mountain Community College*
- Jennifer Silva, Southwestern Oregon Community College*
- Rachel Spoon, Klamath Community College*
- Monica Stevens, Portland Community College*