

June 2010

Hi Everyone,

It's almost summer, although our Oregon weather sure makes it hard to believe. When I'm not at work at the college, I'm usually out working in my soggy garden whenever there is a break in the rain and it looks like I'll be able to get out there for more than a few minutes. My tomatoes and peppers are languishing, yet my broccoli and peas are flourishing. To me, this is a metaphor for the challenges of our complex world. The conditions are great for some things and very poor for others. I think the conditions are perfect for putting attention on growing the professional development experiences AAWCC offers. There is a beautiful quote that fits this time of year and the mood I'm in about AAWCC: "Gardening is a way of showing you I believe in tomorrow." I really do believe in tomorrow, so as I tend my garden at home, I'm also paying attention to what I am helping to grow at Linn-Benton CC and for AAWCC in Oregon.



Oregon AAWCC has the great blessing of an amazing board of directors, all of whom are experienced and enthusiastic about using their skills to benefit our members, including finding better ways to support local chapters and campus contacts.

We're in the process of putting the finishing touches on a summer conference that will be both a respite from our daily work and a chance to learn ways to use technology more productively and creatively in service of our colleges and our students. Mary Kramer and her team at Columbia Gorge CC are creating a great program with the theme, "***Demystifying Your Digital World: Using Technology to Grow Productivity.***" We really like the juxtaposition of technology and the natural landscape of the Oregon Gardens and hope you will be able to join us at the Oregon Gardens in Silverton on July 22 for this day-long event: <http://www.aawccoregon.org/summer-conference/>

We also are having some deep and thoughtful conversations about AAWCC and what we want to create, now and in the future. We are thinking of ways to have this conversation with you all, too. Expect to experience some interesting opportunities to interact with and impact AAWCC's mission and goals when you come to the fall conference, November 18-19. We'll be in a new location this year – the Washington Square Embassy Suites Hotel – and will focus on a theme of "***Obstacles and Opportunities: Thriving in Changing Times.***" It doesn't hurt that we will be right next door to some "world-class" shopping options, either! Get these dates on your calendars now – November will be here before we know it: <http://www.aawccoregon.org/fall-conference/>

I'll be spending some time at OILD later this month, as well. Talk about a place to grow skills! I loved my OILD experience and know that this year will be wonderful for everyone attending. When we plant the seeds of leadership and professionalism, we reap a rich harvest that benefits us as individuals and as contributors to Oregon's community colleges. I can't wait to see you all soon.

Blessings to you and have a great summer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karin Magnuson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karin