

## OREGON'S AAWCC SUMMER 2011 CONFERENCE: METHODS TO MAXIMIZE PROFESSIONAL POTENTIAL, HIGHLIGHTED

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PORTLAND, Ore. – Seeing opportunity to make an impact and creating lasting change are ideas woven throughout this year's summer conference hosted by the Oregon chapter of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC).

*"Cultivate your Professional Potential – at the Oregon Garden"* will take place Thursday, July 14 at the Oregon Garden (<u>www.oregongarden.org</u>) in Silverton, Ore. The day-long conference – tailored to Oregon community college professionals and open to non-AAWCC members interested in attending – features an engaging slate of speakers and workshops focused on professional development, networking, personal growth and development of leadership skills.

"When times are tight, it's so easy to get swept up in just trying to keep your head above water," said Karin Magnuson, president of Oregon's AAWCC and Training Specialist and chair of the Business and Employer Services Department at Linn-Benton Community College.

"Yet opportunity often presents itself at these times, and our summer conference is oriented toward preparing our members to put their best foot forward and seizing the moment when it comes their way."

Following is this year's slate of conference sessions:

- "Nurture Your People Skills to Maximize Your Potential" (9:30-11:40 a.m.) Michelle Bizek, a professional coach who helps clients reach their professional, personal, and spiritual life goals, will present *Nurture Your People Skills to Maximize Your Potential.* The session will focus on self and identity – how who we think we are influences who we can become. Michelle will teach attendees how to use their skills, talents, insights, creativity and wisdom to inspire and equip them in their professional and personal lives.
- **"Watercolor in the Garden" (12:45-2:30 p.m.)** Attendees can enhance their creative side with the next session, *Watercolor in the Garden*, facilitated by Nancy Eng, a Salemarea watercolor artist. What better place to encourage creativity than the Oregon Garden, filled with colorful annuals, perennials, specialty gardens, waterfalls, fountains and quiet ponds? Learn how-to tips about watercolor painting while enjoying and replicating! the beauty of this leading botanical garden.

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• "Planting Your Ideas: How to Write a White Paper" (2:45-3:45 p.m.) – A "white paper" is a report or guide that addresses issues and how to solve them. White papers are used in education, business, politics and other fields to educate and help people make decisions. Knowing how to write one can help to resolve issues, lead to increased funding and develop professional skills. Drs. Linda Reisser and Kate Dins from Portland Community College will explain the process in an interactive session that introduces attendees to this important tool and helps them develop the skills to write one.

Affiliated with the national AAWCC (<u>www.aawccnatl.org</u>), the Oregon chapter of AAWCC has a mission of inspiring, championing and celebrating the talents of its members – mostly women in community colleges around the state. The organization encourages professional development, supports women in leadership roles, develops communication among women in community colleges, promotes and offers local and state workshops, and disseminates information on courses, programs and services.

The association is composed of an 11-member board of elected officers who work for community colleges and agencies.

For more information about Oregon AAWCC and the summer conference, visit: http://www.aawccoregon.org/summer-conference/.

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