

# *Inspire, Champion, and Celebrate the talents within each of us*

*American Association for Women in Community Colleges—Oregon Chapter*

*Spring 2015 Newsletter*



## *Summer Retreat on the Oregon Coast*

This year's summer conference will be held on July 16, 2015, at the beautiful Salishan Lodge and Conference Center in Gleneden Beach. The theme for the conference is "Surfing the Waves—Navigating Your Future." The day will feature keynote speakers Georganne Willis and Mary Stinnett as well as a panel of leaders to discuss planning and strategizing for your professional, personal, and financial future.

The event is scheduled from 8:30 am to 4 pm with breakfast and a networking lunch included. Register before May 31 for only \$95. A block of rooms are available at Salishan; mention the "AAWCC Summer Conference" and receive rates starting at \$123 per room. The special rates are available for two days prior and after the conference should you wish to extend your stay at the coast. For more information and to register, see the AAWCC website at [www.aawccoregon.org/](http://www.aawccoregon.org/).



Come network with your colleagues from across the state at the "AAW- Sea-Sea" Summer Conference!

## *Chemeketa Chapter Wins National Award*



Each year, AAWCC National recognizes a local chapter for the support it gives to women on its campus and how it could be a model for others wanting to do the same. During the AAWCC breakfast at the 2015 Annual AACC Conference, Chemeketa Community College's Chapter was awarded the 2015 AAWCC Chapter Award. Chemeketa was recognized for offering women opportunities in professional development, education about women's issues, and networking. Representatives from the chapter were in attendance at the breakfast and received a plaque plus \$250 for chapter activities. In related news, Erika Coker, a board member of the Chemeketa Chapter, won the AAWCC Regional Scholarship for \$500. She is working on her Master's degree at Portland State University.



## President's Message



*Julie Kopet,  
AAWCC Oregon President*

To all of my community college colleagues:

It is time to welcome spring and new growth. We can enjoy longer days, warmer temperatures, and the color of blooming flowers. Many of you will be planting gardens soon. It is a great time for renewed energy and connection. As we see the growth of spring, we can also see the growth in our organization. The board has been working hard on new and exciting ideas for our conferences. The summer conference, Surfing the Waves, Navigating Your Future, on July 16, will be at the Salishan Conference Center on the Oregon coast. Using a new registration company, we will simplify the registration process. Also, we have been able to archive our photographs and post them on our web page. You can see all the great pictures from our past events.

We will have a new group of OILD (Oregon Institute of Leadership Development) participants June 22 through June 25 at Silver Falls. So many women have learned and grown so much from that experience. This year will be no different.

Our fall conference will be November 19 and 20, 2015, at the Embassy Suites in Tigard, Oregon. The theme is "Power of the Past...Force of the Future." Again, it is a wonderful event that supports the growth and connection for all women in community colleges.

The AAWCC Oregon chapter continues to enlighten, empower, engage, encourage and celebrate our colleagues in community colleges across the state. It is great to know that there is that support in our professional arena. We continue to have valuable professional development with our conferences and we all have made incredible connections with our peers. We all love seeing our AAWCC sisters doing well.

Enjoy the season and join us for all of the upcoming events.

*"Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later."* Og Mandino

### American Association of Women in Community Colleges Oregon Chapter 2015 Board Members

President, Julie Kopet  
 President-Elect, Carol McKiel  
 Past President, Cherie Maas-Anderson  
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 Vice President OILD, Jan Woodcock  
 President Emeritus, Karin Magnuson  
 Ex-Officio Member, OILD Co-Director, Mary Spilde  
 Ex-Officio Member, OILD Co-Director, Julie Huckestein

## *Karin Magnuson Wins Prestigious Leadership Award*

Karin Magnuson was awarded the Carolyn DesJardins Leadership award for 2014 at the AAWCC-Oregon fall conference. This award is given annually to someone who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and made a significant contribution to community colleges.

Karin has influenced the lives and careers of hundreds of women who have worked in community colleges. She has worked in the Business and Employer Services Department at Linn-Benton Community College for the past two decades, has been active in her local AAWCC chapter, and has served as president of AAWCC-Oregon.

A regular presenter at the annual fall conference, Karin is committed to the AAWCC mission and inspiring others to achieve their goals. She pours her heart and soul into all endeavors she undertakes and has a way of making everyone feel that their contribution is essential. Her leadership in community colleges and in AAWCC has served to shape our state chapter to give it the drive and spirit it needs to lift our current and future generations of women to new heights.

Karin continues to serve on the AAWCC-Oregon board as President Emeritus.



*Karin Magnuson (right) and Linda Reisser at the 2014 Fall Conference*

## *Save the Date for the 2015 AAWCC Fall Conference*

Be sure to mark your calendars for the AAWCC Fall Conference. This year's theme is "Power of the Past . . . Force of the Future." The conference will once again be held at the Embassy Suites in Tigard, Oregon. The conference will be held on **November 19 and 20, 2015**. Online registration begins in September.



*Lane CC women enjoy lunch at the 2014 Fall Conference*



*AAWCC President Julie Kopet speaks to conference attendees*

## *AAWCC National Day of Dialogue*

To celebrate AAWCC's 40 years of service, community college chapters around the country hosted a National Day of Dialogue during the month of March. In the sessions, participants discussed topics relevant to women in community colleges, higher education, and in the workforce in general. Participating chapters around Oregon included Blue Mountain, Lane, and Mt. Hood community colleges. The format of the discussions varied from one hour to all day events.

Forty MHCC employees and students participated in MHCC's AAWCC Day of Dialogue event on March 17, contributing their thoughts via email, a "Graffiti wall" and video-taped interview sessions, all centered on the question "What issues are women facing at MHCC today?" AAWCC representatives were available to answer questions, spark discussion and offer membership registration, and plan to share the passionate responses and keep the conversation going campus-wide.

Kristina Holton from Lane Community College had the following to say about Lane's Day of Dialogue: "Overall, this format was probably one of the most unique forms of discussing leadership that I have attended. Round table discussions allowed for a more intimate atmosphere that allowed everyone to ask and answer questions in a more authentic way. There was very little posturing, and also very little self-deprecating comments, both of which I feel can often plague all-women discussions. It felt earnest and grounded in an honest exchange of positive and concrete ideas for building and sustaining leadership skills within the college."



*Mt. Hood Community College's chapter was one of many around the nation who discussed issues facing women today*

## *Plan to attend OILD or Nominate a Leader from Your Campus*



*Silver Falls State Park*

Save the date for the 2015 Oregon Institute for Leadership Development. The 26th annual OILD will be held June 22-25, 2015. This is a professional development opportunity for community college women interested in leadership as well as personal and professional growth. The institute is held at the beautiful Silver Falls Conference Center located east of Salem. Information on the program and the selection process was sent to the AAWCC Campus Contacts and college presidents in February. To register or submit your nominee, contact Lynn Irvin at [lynn.irvin@chemeketa.edu](mailto:lynn.irvin@chemeketa.edu).

## Campus Connections

### ***Blue Mountain Community College***

***By Velda Arnaud***

BMCC's new Business Club is collecting donations for a clothing closet in May, and our AAWCC chapter has partnered with them to organize and conduct the event. The clothing closet, named *Cheap Tricks*, will be open on May 14 for students to purchase clothing items. Money received from sales will go towards scholarships.

Our AAWCC chapter is also endorsing monthly professional development workshops on campus. These workshops are sponsored by BMCC's Human Resources department. So far, employees have participated in Your Social Workplace Culture, Create a Professional Development Plan, Introduction to Myers-Briggs Personality Type, and Dealing with Difficult People. Spring term workshops include Time Management, Project Management, and Stress Management.

For more information on Blue Mountain's chapter, see their website at <http://bluecc.edu/about-bmcc/staff-web/organizations/aawcc>.

### ***Chemeketa Community College***

***By Lynn Irvin***

Chemeketa's chapter partnered with Multicultural Student Services in November to offer the documentary, *A Walk to Beautiful*, along with guest speakers. This event raised awareness of the plight of Ethiopian women, highlighting the patients, caring doctors and a hospital supporting the recovery and surgical procedures necessary to give hope and a meaningful life to very young pregnant women who have complications with childbirth. The event raised enough money to pay for a life altering surgery for one of the young Ethiopian women. It was made even more special by a college employee who planned a trip to Ethiopia to visit the hospital and deliver the funds.

The December activity was a plea to college employees to *Pay it Forward for the Holidays*. The chapter asked college employees to donate gifts, toys, gift cards, and cash for fellow employees who could use a boost during the holidays. The chapter also asked for nominations. Over \$600 was collected and every person nominated was helped. They cherished the outpouring of generosity. The thanks the chapter received was truly heartwarming. There was so much gratitude for these unexpected gifts! This will be repeated on a yearly basis!



The 2015 adventures have begun. The chapter held the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual clothing sale for students on February 19. Clothing was sold for \$1 per item. This is a popular event for the students who were able to purchase clothing for themselves and their families for a rock bottom price, and the chapter raises money for scholarships and activities. The event raised \$650, and dozens of bags of clothing were donated to the Union Gospel Mission for their women's shelter, Simonka Place. It was a win for the employees who cleaned out their closets and donated clothing, a win for the students who purchased good clothing for a great price, a win for the Union Gospel Mission who received clothing for their shelter and a win for the chapter who raised money for the chapter!

## ***Mt. Hood Community College*** ***By Roxanne James***

MHCC's AAWCC Chapter saw its largest number of attendees at the AAWCC Fall Conference in recent years, reflecting the growing interest & commitment to AAWCC at Mt. Hood. Our own VP of Archives, Heather White, contributed her facilitation skills by leading a highly-attended break-out session as well!

In October, MHCC Chapter members demonstrated their AAWCC spirit and bowling skills by forming two bowling teams for the MHCC foundation event "Bowling for Scholars," which helped to raise nearly \$10,000 for student scholarships!

Our chapter has kicked off another year of our "In-House Speaker Series," which are monthly sessions showcasing the stories, professional paths, experiences and talents of our inspiring women employees. Each month has a theme, featuring panelists with similar stories or roles at the college. So far this year we've learned from and been inspired by the "Been Here, Seen That, and Done That" panelists (those who have been at the college for several years) which included chapter member Sheri Mosher and MHCC employees Raye Ann Yapp and Brenda Brady; the "Gatekeepers" panel (administrative assistants) which highlighted MHCC employees Kim Sharer and Garie Zordich; and most recently, an "OILD attendees" panel which included chapter President Sydney Frost, Past-President Eran Smith, VP of Archives Heather White, chapter member Stephanie Debner, and MHCC employee Sharon Juenemann.

Finally, our chapter is excited to welcome 10 new members in 2015, including our first student members!

## ***Lane Community College*** ***By Siv Serene Barnum***

We started our year hearing from Interim Vice President Dawn DeWolf and her expedition to Machu Picchu in Peru. The session was titled "Little by Little, I Walk Far," a Peruvian proverb and applicable for her life's journey. She shared amazing pictures and relayed stories of the camp sites, food and native people.

In January, Lane's chapter held its first ever Bunco Night and had a blast. Several people attended who have since become members, especially since we plan on having a summer Bunco.

In February, members were encouraged to meet up at Lane's art gallery to participate in the closing reception for 'Generous.' Siv Serene, Chapter President, and Claudia Riumallo, who attended OILD in 2014, gave a session on Professional Journaling using pen and paper but also digital journaling. They covered reflective writing, focused freewriting, concept mapping, word collage, metaphors, dialoging, and Siv Serene even shared poems.



*Members gathered at Siv Serene Barnum's home for Bunco night*

# Fifteen Women Earn Excellence Awards

Oregon community colleges honored outstanding individuals by nominating them for the AAWCC-Oregon Excellence Awards.

Fifteen Women were honored at the annual fall conference. The 2014 Excellence Award winners were:

- Diane Drebin, Blue Mountain
- Nancy Green, Chemeketa
- Rinda Johansen, Clatsop
- Kathy Smith, Central Oregon
- Charlotte Lavender, Columbia Gorge
- Donna Lewelling, CCWD/HECC
- Jamie Jennings, Klamath
- Siv Serene Barnum, Lane
- Gwen Cox, Linn-Benton
- Christi Hart, Mt. Hood
- Catharine Pavlish, Oregon Coast
- Melissa Aaberg, Portland
- Joe Momyer, Rogue
- Deb Nicholls, Southwestern
- Jessica Richardson, Umpqua

Chosen by local AAWCC membership, these women were selected for the differences they have made for women at their own community colleges.

It's not too early to start thinking about someone at your college who deserves this recognition. Recipients need not be a member of AAWCC to receive the award. More information on how to nominate an outstanding woman at your campus will be available prior to the 2015 Fall Conference.



2014 Excellence Award Winner  
Deb Nicholls with Jenny Silve



2014 Excellence Award Winner  
Donna Lewelling with Evelyne Roth



2014 Excellence Award Winner Gwen Cox  
with Karin Magnuson



2014 Excellence Award Winner Jessica  
Richardson with Umpqua women



2014 Excellence Award Winner  
Melissa Aaberg with Sarah Tillery



2014 Excellence Award Winner Siv Serene  
Barnum with LCC President Mary Spilde



2014 Excellence Award Winner  
Nancy Green with Lynn Irvin



2014 Excellence Award Winner  
Rinda Johnson with Donna Larson

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