**Greater Portland Regional Center of Expertise (RCE)**

**on Education for Sustainable Development**

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***Welcome to our November RCE Newsletter!  Sustainability educators and supporters in the region continue to do amazing things and there are many new opportunities. Check out the details below for news, events, and workshops.***

**RCE News**

While we are still waiting on our official RCE designation (hopefully, in December), we have begun to receive a lot of international sustainability resources from the United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS). We offer one example below, on biodiversity, traditional knowledge, and community health**.**

We were also surprised to have been invited to attend this year’s Global RCE Conference, in Nairobi, Kenya, in November. While we were hoping for a cohort of Greater Portland RCE representatives, we only received funding for one person to attend. Thank you to Portland Community College for supporting RCE Coordinator Kim Smith. She will participate in thematic discussions around climate change, traditional knowledge, governance, and fundraising, so please provide regional insights on efforts on those issues, if possible.

**Events**

# School Tour and Panel Discussion: Engaging Our Future: Equipping Students Today for Tomorrow's Jobs

**Thursday, November 7, 2013**

**4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Henrietta Lacks Health and Bioscience High School**

**9105 NE 9th St., Vancouver, WA 98664**

This event focuses on the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in our schools today as we prepare our future workforce. STEM education can be instrumental in creating critical thinkers and enabling the next generation of innovators.

The Henrietta Lacks Health and Bioscience High School (HeLa High) is a rare example nationally of a school focused on health and bioscience. LSW Architects and Evergreen Public School staff worked with community health partners at PeaceHealth, Legacy, Providence, Kaiser, Clark College, and WSU Vancouver to design the 69,000 sq. ft. high school adjacent to the PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center. HeLa High is the first school in Evergreen Public School to meet Washington Sustainable Schools Protocol (WSSP), blending sustainable design and construction measures into a state-of-the-art technology facility.

The goal of HeLa High is to prepare local students for high-demand, living wage jobs in the fastest growing industry in the United States. The school program and building design was focused on providing students with hands-on experience, such as a working nursing clinic.  Other learning opportunities are found in health informatics, bio-medical engineering, a pharmacy, bio-tech, advanced biology, and advanced chemistry.  The design facilitates after school use by health industry partners by sectioning the building in such a way as to allow partial use in the evenings.

This is a **FREE** event and attendees will receive 2 AIA CEU.

**RSVP:** [Katrina Shum Miller](mailto:kshummiller@gmail.com?subject=Henrietta%20Lacks%20Health), Chapter President, or through [**Online Registration**](http://www.cefpi.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=5415)

**Film Screening: A Fierce Green Fire**

**Sunday, November 10, 2013**

**6:30 pm – 9:30 pm**

**Eliot Chapel (First Unitarian Universalist Church)**

**SW 12th Street and Salmon, Portland, OR 97205**

Join the Alliance for Democracy for a screening of this Academy Award nominated documentary “A Fierce Green Fire,” narrated by Robert Redford and Meryl Streep. Trailer and more information available at: <http://afiercegreenfire.com/>  
  
This is the first big picture exploration of the environmental movement, covering fifty years of grassroots and global activism, from conservation to climate change. From halting dams in the Grand Canyon to battling 20,000 tons of toxic waste at Love Canal, from Greenpeace saving whales to Chico Mendes and the rubber tappers saving the Amazon; from climate change to the promise of transforming our civilization, the film tells vivid stories about people fighting - and succeeding - against enormous odds. Stay after the screening for a panel discussion including director, Mark Kitchell, Jon Roschke, Exec Director of Oregonians for Renewable Energy Progress, and Charles Johnson with Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

**RCE Coordinating Committee Meeting**

**Thursday, November 14, 2013**

**10:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**PCC CLIMB Center Rm. 300**

**1626 SE Water Avenue, Portland, OR 97214**

Members of the coordinating committee volunteer their time to attend monthly meetings, serve as liaisons between the RCE and member organizations, provide input on RCE activities, coordinate quarterly RCE stakeholder meetings, help with RCE outreach, and conduct the overall business of the RCE. All stakeholders are welcome to participate in the coordinating committee.

**Sustainability in Higher Education Community of Practice Call: Preparing Students for Careers in Sustainability**

**Thursday, November 21**

**1:00 pm to 2:00 pm PST / 4:00 pm to 5:00pm EST  
Dial-In Number:**[**641.715.3300**](tel:641.715.3300) **Access Code: 114549#**

Jeanne Ellis and Mary Vance are experts at advising students at [Portland State University's Advising and Career Services](http://www.pdx.edu/advising-career-services/).  [Jeanne](http://www.pdx.edu/profile/meet-jeanne-ellis) uses her natural 'connector' skills as the Internship Advisor by advocating for students and matching employers' needs.  [Mary](http://www.pdx.edu/profile/meet-mary-vance) specializes in careers and internships in sustainability-related fields including a special sustainability internship program that she has designed.  Both have been involved in the conversations at PSU regarding designing student pathways in sustainability along their journey of learning and professional development.  We also have an excellent [Careers in Sustainability](http://www.pdx.edu/careers/careers-in-sustainability) resource page at Portland State that is definitely worth taking a look at prior to the call!

Join us for a semi-structured presentation then we will open the conversation for anyone who has questions and would like to share their own experience.

**Workshops and Conferences**

**PSU Social Sustainability Colloquium**

**Fridays**

**2:00pm - 4:00pm**

**Portland State University**

**ASRC (Rec Center bldg), Room 660**

**1800 SW 6th Ave. Portland, OR 97201**

**FREE and open to the public**

**Friday, November 8**

***The Politics of Cultural Values Mapping: Struggles over natural resources on the Olympic Peninsula with Diane Besser. . .*** how participants in several communities organized themselves to ensure that their landscape values would be included on the maps. It illustrates the problematic nature of cultural values mapping data, and highlights the importance of understanding who is at the mapping table (and who is absent) and how people represent their values on the map when interpreting such data.

**Friday, November 15**

***The Business of Social Innovation: A New Online Program in Social Entrepreneurship with Jacen Greene*** Around the world, a movement is growing that unleashes the power of business for social impact. Portland State University's Impact Entrepreneurs inspires and educates individuals and organizations to participate in this movement. Join us for an informational session on our new online program in social innovation and social entrepreneurship, open to undergraduates, graduates, and professionals of all ages and locations. In less than a year, participants will emerge with a set of skills to launch, lead or manage high-impact social ventures of any size and sector. Learn how you can join this intergenerational, global cohort of change agents using new tools and approaches to tackle the world’s biggest challenges! [www.changemakercertificate.com](http://www.changemakercertificate.com)

**Friday, November 22**

***Language of Life: Finding Answers to Modern Crises in an Ancient Way of Speaking with Milt Markewitz and Ruth Miller*** Dr. Ruth Miller and Milt Markewitz have authored a new book, ***Language of Life:*** ***Finding Answers to Modern Crises in an Ancient Way of Speaking****,* that blends Ruth’s understanding of ancient cultures, languages, and systemic understanding of life, with Milt’s study of Carlos Suarés’ articulation of Ancient Hebrew as a ‘living language’—a set of nine life-processes that yield insights into all that is necessary to create and sustain life. The presentation explores how language is a key factor to cultural consciousness; compares cultures and their languages; is critical learning for those who don’t speak a ‘language of life’; and describes paradigm shifts necessary to re-achieve a sustainable planet. Like the book, the presentation has a hopeful conclusion informed by the Indigenous wisdom of living each day in balance and harmony as the means to achieving ecological sustainability and the social and economic sustainability that follow so naturally. The presentation will flow into a conversation of PSU as a living system, and how this informs us regarding curricula, organization, and intervention into current problems.

**Resources**

**Climate Change and Public Health Preparation Plan Released!**

The Multnomah County Health Department released the [Climate Change and Public Health Preparation Plan](https://web.multco.us/sites/default/files/documents/multnomah_county_climate_change_and_public_health_preparation_plan_2013.pdf). The plan identifies three key local public health impacts the region is likely to face: increased heat, poorer air quality, and changes to vector borne diseases. The plan also identifies strategies the County, its regional partners, and individuals can take to build local resilience to changes in our climate.

**UNU-IAS Policy Report: Biodiversity, Traditional Knowledge and Community Health**

The United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) shared this report on [Biodiversity, Traditional Knowledge and Community Health: Strengthening Linkages](http://www.ias.unu.edu/resource_centre/Biodiversity%20Traditional%20Knowledge%20and%20Community%20Health_final.pdf) with the global RCE network. Given the recent attention on universal and improved health care access for all, there is a renewed interest to strengthen the potential of traditional medicine and health practitioners to fulfill this role. There are several initiatives at the macro and local levels that exemplify good practice in achieving both sustainable use of natural resources for traditional medical purposes, as well as accessibility for marginal and local communities. Ensuring sustained availability of biological resources and sufficient access to good quality health care for all members of society is a clear and necessary objective.

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*Do you have sustainability education events, news, resources, funding opportunities or ideas for collaborating that you would like to share with others in the RCE network?  Send them to*[*kdsmith@pcc.edu*](mailto:kdsmith@pcc.edu)*.*

For information about this listserv or to make changes to your subscription, go to<https://www.lists.pdx.edu/lists/listinfo/un-rce-esd>