

HEAR OUR VOICES: RESILIENCE EMPOWERED CHANGE



APRIL 15-16,
2021
ON ZOOM

31ST ANNUAL STUDENTS OF COLOR CONFERENCE

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"Do not wait for someone else to come and speak for you. It's you who can change the world."

- MALALA
YOUSAFZAI

— ” —



A LETTER FROM THE MSSDC PRESIDENT

Dear SOCC Scholar,

Welcome to the 31st Annual Students of Color Conference, lovingly known as SOCC! Over the last eight months, our committee has worked tirelessly to curate a virtual experience that celebrate, honors, and challenges you as the leader that you are.



So, what is SOCC exactly? This conference is beyond a gathering of the collective, it is a movement that has and will continue to empower attendees who fully immerse themselves in the journey it provides. Established in 1990 by the Multicultural Student Services Directors' Council (MSSDC), The Students of Color Conference (SOCC) supports students of Washington State community and technical colleges to become more active proponents of their own education, life choices, and to expand the opportunities and possibilities for students to become agents of change.

SOCC is for us, by us.

In March 2020, the SOCC Planning Committee was preparing for our grand 30th Anniversary of SOCC when our lives were globally impacted by the Coronavirus global pandemic, ultimately causing us to cancel the 30th Annual Students of Color Conference. As President of MSSDC, I can honestly say it was one of the most heart wrenching decisions I've been a part of. What followed has been a year of unforeseen challenges. Virtual learning. Social distancing. Collective loss. Civil unrest. The list is endless. However, through it all, what has brought me hope is you- our scholars. You continued to invest in yourself and your educational journey in a time of uncertainty that will forever shape our collective experience. You are the reason why we were inspired to continue this legacy and create SOCC 2021.

A LETTER FROM THE MSSDC PRESIDENT

The 2021 SOCC theme is “Hear Our Voices: Resilience Empowered Change”. We can no longer afford not to be heard or be ignored any longer. Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) are beautiful, powerful, resilient and will forever be curators of change. And despite all this- the continual hate crimes, disparities in policies, etc., continue to target BIPOC and other historical marginalized identities.



This year’s conference is centered to hold space for you, to let you know we are here, and to empower you to be the change you wish to see in our global community. Each keynote presenter will take you through a journey of self-reflection and growth. Be prepared to embark on a learning experience unlike any other. We encourage you to immerse yourself, listen attentively, take notes, and engage. Give yourself this time to be present. **You are worth it and so much more.**

Con mucho amor,
Doris Yolani Martinez
President, Multicultural Student Services Directors Council

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Conference Planning Committee:

Doris Martinez, Nadine P. Stecklein, Liz DeVilleneuve, LaTanya McClellan, Yokiko Hayashi-Saguil, Larissa Tikhonova, Erin Tofte, Christie Santos, Jessica Ramirez, Audry Bernal, Kaytie Ohashi, Marwa Almusawi, Tanya Zaragoza-Rosas, Dorrin Wanjiru, and Melissa Williams

A special thanks to the hosting colleges:

Highline College, Green River College, Clark College, Whatcom Community College, Yakima Valley College, Wenatchee Valley College, and Centralia College

We would like to recognize and thank the following for their generous sponsorship:

Washington State Associations of College Trustees, The State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, Washington State Employee Credit Union, and the Washington Student Engagement Networks

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STUDENT ENGAGEMENT NETWORKS

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Thursday, April 15th

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Welcome ([Zoom Link](#)).

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM: Mindful Moments: Finding Your Center During Challenging Times by Natasha Burrowes ([Zoom Link](#)).

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: A Womxn's Place is in the Struggle by Roxanna Padro Garcia ([Zoom Link](#)).

Friday, April 16th

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Who am I? Exploring My Unique Identity by Rashida Willard & Melissa Williams ([Zoom Link](#)).

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM - The Evolution of Alo-Hā: An Indigenous Way to Navigate Anti-Racist Conversations by Gerry Ebalaroza - Tunnell ([Zoom Link](#)).

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM - A Discussion and Q&A with Isabel Wilkerson ([Zoom Link](#)).

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM - Student Action- Challenging Hate and Inspiring Hope by Dr. Raymond Reyes ([Zoom Link](#)).

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Snack-n-Trivia ([Zoom Link](#)).

Guided by Five Main Themes

IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT

Racial, ethnic, and/or cultural identity group sessions focus on group identity and issues related to self awareness. These workshops introduce students to concepts and structures that will strengthen their racial, ethnic and/or cultural identity.

AWARENESS OF OTHERS

These “101” workshops are designed to increase students’ awareness, knowledge, and understanding related to race, ethnicity, and other differences with groups other than their own.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

In these workshops, students will be inspired to learn, build and develop skills that they can use to achieve their full potential. Examples include alliance building, intercultural communication, cross-cultural communication, understanding power and privilege, etc.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SOCIAL ACTIVISM

These workshops will introduce and/or advance students’ understanding of the importance of becoming agents of social change. Topics for discussion will include social change, institutional inequities, issues affecting our communities, -isms, social economic justice, etc.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Students will learn the importance of personal development in the areas of health and wellness, and issues related to the mind, body, and soul. Examples include music, art, movement, etc.

The goal of the conference is to support students of Washington State community and technical colleges to become more active proponents of their own education and life choices, and to expand the opportunities and possibilities for students to become agents of change.

Ground Rules / Zoom Etiquette



Contributions are welcome and open discussion is encouraged, while respecting your college's Student Conduct Code. In order to have productive discussion, participants must be honest with others and themselves.

1. While there is no such thing as a completely “safe” public forum for discussing difficult topics, if you do not want your comments repeated outside of the group, preface your remarks with a request for confidentiality and the group will honor your request.
2. Assume that everyone participating is doing the best they can to listen and understand the topics presented.
3. Never demean, devalue, or in any way embarrass people for their experiences should they choose to share in the group. Humor is welcome, but shaming behavior is not.
4. Practice respectful inquisitiveness about others, not cultural tourism. It is better to admit that we know very little about a different person or culture and to gather information than to make assumptions.
5. Allow each person to speak without interruption.
6. Everyone will be on mute except the speaker so that calls are easeful for everyone.
7. Acknowledge that inequalities of privilege and power exist in our social structure according to race/ethnicity, nationality, class, gender identity, age, religion, socioeconomic status, physical or mental disability, and sexual orientation.

Ground Rules / Zoom Etiquette

8. Acknowledge definitions, terms, and examples discussed as samples of institutional and structural conditioning that can misinform us about our own group identity and about others.

9. Agree not to blame ourselves or others for the misinformation we have learned, but accept responsibility for not repeating misinformation after we have learned a new way to respect and embrace difference. Also agree not to blame victims for the condition of their lives.

10. It's okay to feel anger, confusion, frustration, fear, and sadness while participating. Realize that the more often you participate in discussions and spend time learning about diversity issues, you will also feel acceptance, reconciliation, trust and empathy for others. The more we know about differences, the more comfortable we will be with our diverse people in our global community.

No matter the internet connection -- which may falter and frustrate us -- remember that we are humans connecting!



— “ —

"Justice is at the heart of other-related morality; it is the foundation for the virtue of treating others with respect and dignity.

- PAUL TP. WONG

— ” —



RESOURCES

SOCC is a time for students to learn, reflect and engage in what can be difficult topics for many, regardless of where they are in their journey. Topics of identity, oppression, and justice can often bring up intense feelings of sadness, frustration, and overwhelm. Throughout the conference please practice self care and honor your boundaries. This can look like:

- **Stepping away from the computer when you need a moment**
- **Taking care of your body (eating food, staying hydrated, stretching)**
- **Taking breaks when you need to, even if its in the middle of a workshop**



Growth is never easy, but you don't have to go through it alone. **If you feel like you need emotional support or just someone to talk to about all the things you've learned and where to go next, contact your school advisor.** This is the person at your college that likely reached out to you about SOCC in the first place. They'll be more than happy to provide you with more resources and opportunity to dive deeper into all the important things you've learned at SOCC.



— “ —

"Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare."

- AUDRE LORDE

— ” —

CONFERENCE AGENDA

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM - Welcome

Zoom Link

- *Land Acknowledgment - Ben Leolofi*
- *A message from Senator Emily Randall*
- *College Roll Call*
- *Rhonda Quash Coats and Emerging Leader Award*

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM - Mindful Moments: Finding Your Center During Challenging Times by Natasha Burrowes

Hosted by Highline College

Zoom Link

One breath. A moment of pause. Stillness. Cultivating awareness of the present moment and connecting to the quiet voice within can help anchor us in uncertain times. Explore your inner wisdom and mindfulness practices that can help center you in the mind, body, and soul.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM - A Womxn's Place is in the Struggle by Roxana Padro Garcia

Hosted by Green River College

Zoom Link

A Womxn's place is in the struggle is an interactive workshop that will look at the imperative role that womxn play in social justice movements. How do we use our ancestral knowledge to feel empowered to survive, live, and thrive in our environments? What do Assata Shakur's words "A Womxn's place is in the struggle" mean today? Learn the importance of honoring and learning from elders, bringing in the emerging generations voice and skills, working across communities, and centering the voices of those who have been historically looted and disenfranchised.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM - Who am I? Exploring My Unique Identity by Rashida Willard & Melissa Williams

Hosted by Clark College

[Zoom Link](#)

How do you define yourself and how does the world define you? In this workshop you will learn about the concepts of intersectionality and social location, examine elements of your personal and social identity, and explore how those elements enhance your college experience. This will be an interactive session with small group chats, a fun virtual activity, and a gift giveaway!

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM - The Evolution of Alo-Hā: An Indigenous Way to Navigate Anti-Racist Conversations by Gerry Ebalaroza - Tunnell

Hosted by Whatcom Community College

[Zoom Link](#)

With our society more dissonant than ever, we are facing the cataclysmic result of issues that are causing a collection of civic altercations, dogmatic contention, environmental catastrophe, and the disunion of the community. In this session, Gerry Ebalaroza-Tunnell will introduce the concept of Alo-Hā, Alo (Meaning: forward, facing each other), and Hā (Meaning: Breath). This is Alo Hā: The exchange of ideas, the resolution of conflict, the changing of perspectives, and the evolution of our collective being. When viewed through this expanded lens, Alo-Hā takes on a more profound meaning than the simple greeting that we've become accustomed to.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM - A Discussion and Q&A with Isabel Wilkerson

Hosted by Yakima Valley College

[Zoom Link](#)

*Isabel Wilkerson, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Humanities Medal, is the author of the critically acclaimed, New York Times bestsellers *The Warmth of Other Suns*, and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*.*

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM - Student Action - Challenging Hate and Inspiring Hope by Dr. Raymond Reyes

Hosted by Wenatchee Valley College

[Zoom Link](#)

This session will critically examine the knowledge, attitude and skills essential in exercising agency to serve the Greater Good of how resilience empowers sustainable change. Lessons learned from Gonzaga University's Institute for Hate Studies on effective ways to speak truth to the face of power, dismantling systemic racism and other forms of exclusion, oppression, and heinous violence will be explored. What do you need to have in order to close the gap between rhetoric and reality, promise, and practices? What is the nature of sustainable change? Why does a racial reckoning require that we rethink ourselves during a time of truth and healing? Dr. Reyes will explore these questions within the context of harvesting key insights from his 33 years of social justice work at Gonzaga University and the Institute for Hate Studies.

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM - Snack-n-Trivia

[Zoom Link](#)

Snack-n-Trivia is your chance to enjoy fun competitive trivia from the comfort of your home. This 4 round event is filled with laughs, a live dj, mini scavenger hunts, & prizes sent straight to the winners' phone! It's a fun filled evening and all you have to do is log on, bring a snack, and get ready for the laughs!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ISABEL WILKERSON



Isabel Wilkerson is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, and the author of *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*.

Born in Washington D.C., she studied journalism at Howard University, becoming editor-in-chief of the college newspaper *The Hilltop*. During college, Wilkerson interned at many publications, including the *The Los Angeles Times* and *Washington Post*.

In 1994, while Chicago bureau chief of *The New York Times*, she became the first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize in journalism, winning the feature writing award for her coverage of the 1993 midwestern floods and her profile of a 10-year-old boy who was responsible for his four siblings. Several of Wilkerson's articles are included in the book *Pulitzer Prize Feature Stories: America's Best Writing, 1979 - 2003*, edited by David Garlock.

Wilkerson has also won a George S. Polk Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a Journalist of the Year award from the National Association of Black Journalists. She has also held the positions of James M. Cox Professor of Journalism at Emory University, Ferris Professor of Journalism at Princeton University and the Kreeger-Wolf endowed lecturer at Northwestern University. She also served as a board member of the National Arts in Journalism Program at Columbia University.

Wilkerson is now a Professor of Journalism and Director of Narrative Nonfiction in the College of Communications at Boston University.

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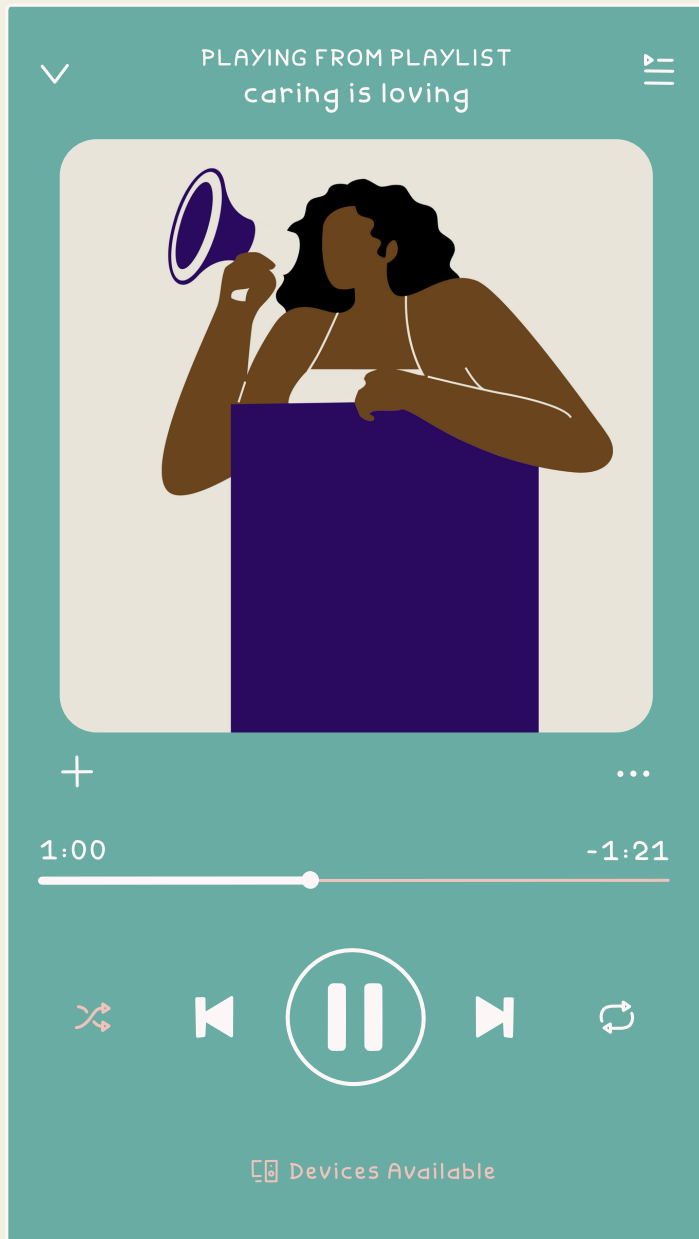
FRIDAY, APRIL 16

5:00 PM

ZOOM LINK

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OFFICIAL SPOTIFY PLAYLIST



Don't want the music to stop?

Scan the QR Code or click the link below to access the SOCC Spotify playlist!



[2021 SOCC SPOTIFY](#)
[PLAYLIST](#)



ALREADY THINKING ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S SOCC?

So are we!

For all the latest news on next year's Students
of Color Conference, follow us on social media.



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