



April 3-5, 2025
Green River College
Auburn, WA

Special Thanks

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE 2025 STUDENTS OF COLOR CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ashley Brintzenhofe, Green River College
Alexis Burris, South Seattle College
Carlos Serrano, North Seattle College
Cindy Jasmine Arias, Highline College
Christina Nakada-Alm, Tacoma Community College
Eduardo Torres, Edmonds College
Edwina Fui, Highline College (Co-Chair)
Geomarc Panelo, Highline College
Karla Rabadan, Yakima Valley College
Leilani Salu, Green River College
Luke Ruiz, Clover Park Technical College
Luz Garza, Columbia Basin College
Marwa Almusawi, Green River College (Co-Chair)
Melissa Williams, State Board for Community &
Technical Colleges
Mica Hunter, Renton Technical College
Roberto Lopez, Shoreline Community College
Ronnell Baylis, Tacoma Community College
Samantha Della-DeVoney, Peninsula College
Tanya Zaragosa-Rosas, Whatcom Community College

THANK YOU AS WELL TO ALL SOCC VOLUNTEERS!

WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOGNIZE AND THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP:

Diversity and Equity Officers Commission
College Spark
Muckleshoot Canoe Family



Welcome

Greetings everyone,

I welcome you to the 35th annual Students of Color Conference (SOCC) at Green River College. We are honored to have you here for this historical moment in our shared journey. First of all, I want to take a moment to acknowledge each and every one of you. I see you. I hear you. I stand with you. I know these present times are challenging, but let me remind you—you are a light and we will continue to light the way ahead. We are here together, and we are here to stay.

To all BIPOC, undocumented, and LGBTQA+ community members: You matter. Your rights matter. Your whole, authentic self is welcome here. I encourage you to be fully present in this space, to engage, and build community with one another. This year's theme, In LaK'ech Ala K'in: You Are My Other Me, Tu Eres Mi Otro Yo, carries a powerful truth: If you are hurting, I am hurting. If I harm you, I harm myself.

Let's stand in solidarity, knowing that our strength is in our unity. We have fought for change before, and we will continue to do so. Together we rise. Together we make history.

Enjoy the conference, and let's continue to build something powerful where many cultures can live and grow in unity.

We have created this wonderful space for you all to dive into learning about your own identities, and learn about the identities of others, as well as network and connect with each other. The best learning happens when you share knowledge with each other from your own personal experience. Don't forget to be courageous and kind.

Sincerely,

Tanya Zaragoza-Rosas

Multicultural Student Services Directors' Council President

Welcome (cont.)

Prayer/Meditation Room

Green River College is offering a prayer and reflection room in the Student Union (first floor) for Students of Color Conference participants. This space is available for prayer, meditation, or reflection, based on individual needs. If you need a quiet space for other reasons, please ask a committee member or advisor. We will do our best to accommodate you. Please respect the space and leave it for its intended use. Visit the Whova App for more details.

All-Gender Restrooms

The Students of Color Conference is committed to including transgender and gender non-conforming members of our community. Transgender individuals have a gender identity that differs from their assigned gender at birth. To ensure everyone feels safe and included, the conference has provided All-Gender Restrooms, located throughout campus (see campus map). While gendered restrooms are still available, we encourage all attendees to use the restroom where they feel most comfortable. Please respect others' privacy and let everyone "pee in peace."

Counseling

Due to the nature of topics covered at the Students of Color Conference, students may experience a variety of overwhelming feelings/thoughts. If at any time you need to meet with a counselor, please come to SOCC Headquarters and our staff will direct you. The conference has a counselor on-site that you can be immediately connected with. Visit the Whova App for more details.

Decompression Zone

Recognizing the power of pause, this space is intentionally designed for attendees to take a moment to slow down, breathe and recenter themselves. We invite you to utilize this space to take a break and take care of yourself. Attendees can participate in a range of calming activities and self-guided reflections offered in the Decompression Zone hosted through GRC's Center for Transformational Wellness. Visit the Whova App for more details.

Land Acknowledgement (greenriver.edu)

We acknowledge we are gathered upon the ancestral lands of the Seattle area's Federally Recognized Indian Tribe – the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, who historically lived throughout the areas between the Cascade Mountains and Puget Sound, what is also known as the Salish Sea. Muckleshoot is part of both the Medicine Creek and Point Elliot Treaties. These treaties reserve governmental rights to the Muckleshoot people and recognize their “Usual and Accustomed Territory”, where they hunt, fish, gather, trade, govern, and live. These areas include DiDelaliV, (Dz-zah-lah-luch), what is now known as the city of Seattle and the surrounding region. * DiDelaliV, (Dz-zah-lah-luch)- is the traditional Muckleshoot place name for Seattle and means: the shaking ground place.

Today Muckleshoot celebrates and honors their culture by practicing and preserving their traditional language and heritage. They're also educating their youth, and providing housing, healthcare, elder programs, Veterans resources, and many other vital programs to their members. As the second largest employer in South King County, Muckleshoot directly or indirectly supports thousands of jobs in this region and spends millions of dollars annually on hundreds of charitable and community contributions.

Muckleshoot remains a strong Sovereign Nation and are invaluable contributors to our state history, identity, economy, and culture.

- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe (2021)

Labor Acknowledgment (sbctc.edu)

We also pause to recognize and acknowledge the labor upon which our country, state, and institutions are built. We remember that our country is built on the labor of enslaved people who were kidnapped and brought to the U.S. from the African continent and recognize the continued contribution of their survivors. We also acknowledge all immigrant labor, including voluntary, involuntary, trafficked, forced, and undocumented peoples who contributed to the building of the country and continue to serve within our labor force.

The Conference

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.

The conference is structured around five sessions with up to 16 concurrent workshops per session. Each interactive workshop is scheduled for 90 to 120 minutes. In order to foster an atmosphere of shared knowledge, at least 50% of time in each workshop will include active learning components, such as facilitated discussion.

Ground Rules

For Group Discussions about Diversity, Human Rights, and Equality

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. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.

Agenda

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

Time

3:00 - 6:00PM

Conference Check-in

6:00 - 7:00PM

Dinner

7:00 - 7:45PM

Opening Ceremonies

8:00 - 9:30PM

Evening Activities

Location

**Mel Lindbloom
Student Union**

**Grand Hall,
ML Student Union**

**Grand Hall,
ML Student Union**

**Grand Hall,
ML Student Union**

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025

Time

8:00 - 9:00AM

Breakfast, Coffee and Tea Service

9:15 - 10:15AM

Keynote Speaker: Terisa Siagatonu

10:45AM - 12:15PM

Session 1: Race/Ethnicity/Cultural
Identity Workshops

12:15 - 1:15PM

Lunch

1:30 - 3:00PM

Session 2: Identity Development
Workshops

3:00 - 3:30PM

Snacks & Social Break

Location

**Grand Hall,
ML Student Union**

**Grand Hall,
ML Student Union**

Various Locations

**Grand Hall,
ML Student Union**

Various Locations

Kennelly Commons

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 (cont.)

Time	Location
3:45 - 5:15PM Session 3. Pillar Exploration Workshops	Various Locations
5:15 - 6:30PM School Meetings and Wellness Break	Various Locations
6:30 - 7:30PM Dinner	Grand Hall, ML Student Union
8:00 - 10:00PM Social Events and Community Activities	Various Locations

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025

Time	Location
8:00 - 9:00AM Breakfast, Coffee and Tea Service	Grand Hall, ML Student Union
9:30 - 10:30AM Keynote Speaker: Saul Flores	Grand Hall, ML Student Union
11:00AM - 12:30PM Session 4: Pillar Exploration Workshops	Various Locations
12:30 - 1:00PM Closing Ceremonies	Grand Hall, ML Student Union

Join us on our official event app!

We're using Whova as our official event app to facilitate networking, host the event agenda, distribute documents, and send announcements

Scan the QR code for the link to download Whova from the App Store or Google Play

Having trouble joining? Search for our event and enter the invitation code: g82vk011ai

Whova



Keynote Speakers

Opening Keynote: Terisa Siagatonu
Friday, April 4th, 2025 | 9:15-10:15AM



Finally, the Poets: (Some) Notes on Narrative Change, the Duty of Art(ists), and the Cultural Power of Our Stories

What if everything we envision- for our students, schools, communities, ourselves, and future generations- depends on us telling our stories? What is the price of speaking our truth, and who pays for it? What if the world we ache for costs us everything to get there? When we say 'narrative change': are we prepared to be changed too? And who better to prepare us than the artist who always knew?

Through dynamic performance and poetic testimony, award-winning poet, educator, and organizer Terisa Siagatonu helps us re-imagine a world powered by stories, culture keepers, and those who prioritize imagination and narrative change as life-saving/life-giving organizing tools. Her keynote offers lessons gained from her nearly 20 years of artistic development and performance work, demonstrating how artists not only beautify our lives with creative vision but also articulate, crystallize, and lead many of our greatest efforts of transformative change toward justice and our collective liberation.



About Terisa

Terisa Siagatonu [See-ang-gah-toe-new] is an award-winning touring poet, speaker, educator, and community organizer born and rooted in the Bay Area. Her voice in the poetry world as a queer Sāmoan woman has granted her opportunities to perform in places such as the UN Conference on Climate Change in Paris, the Asia Pacific Triennial in Brisbane, Australia, and the 2019 SF Women's March. Terisa's writing/teaching blends the personal, cultural, and political in a way that calls for healing, courage, justice, and truth. A 2022 Emerson Collective Fellow, her work has been published in Poetry Magazine and The Academy of American Poets and has been featured on Button Poetry, CNN, NBCNews, NPR, KQED, Huffington Post, Everyday Feminism, The Guardian, and more.

Offstage, Terisa is a community organizer and creates and facilitates workshops, leads artistic and professional development training, provides mental health support, and delivers keynote speeches across the country on issues that inform her 15+ years of community work involving: youth advocacy, educational attainment, mental health, Pacific Islander/Indigenous rights, climate change, and others. Currently, Terisa is working on a YA novel about the hidden costs of climate change as told through the life of a Samoan-American teen from the Bay Area. Her debut children's book, *The Vastness of Us*, will be published by Penguin and released in Fall 2025.

Keynote Speakers

Closing Keynote: Saul Flores

Saturday, April 5th, 2025 | 9:30-10:30AM



The Walk

Saul spent three months walking, hitchhiking, and sleeping on the ground and in hiding places. His journey began in Ecuador and ended in Charlotte, North Carolina. In three months, he walked 5,328 miles through ten countries and nine border crossings to document how grueling and dangerous the journey of immigrants to the United States can be and to raise money for an elementary school in Atencingo, Mexico. In this keynote, Saul speaks about how as a North Carolina State University senior, he took the “Walk” in the summer of 2010. Student audiences get the opportunity to relive the walk Saul took and create a deeper understanding of the struggles, hardships, joy, and hope that immigrants experience on their journey.



About Saul

Saul Flores is a masterful storyteller, social innovator, and a powerful voice for change. Recognized for his innovative ideas, impactful projects, and visionary ventures. He has presented at over 250 universities, organizations, and corporations nationwide, sharing his message with thousands of attendees from diverse backgrounds, earning him the distinction of being a leading national speaker. His work has been featured on National Public Radio, PRI's the World, MSNBC, and TED. Additionally, Saul has been featured as a keynote speaker for companies like Duolingo, Bath & Body Works, and Victoria's Secret. Through his social impact project, The Walk of the Immigrants, Saul documents the amazing lives of thousands of Latin American immigrants to fundraise for an elementary school in his mother's hometown. Saul is the founder of MAMA Sugar, a socially conscious sugar company, intersecting farmworker rights, social impact, and sustainable farming.

Notes

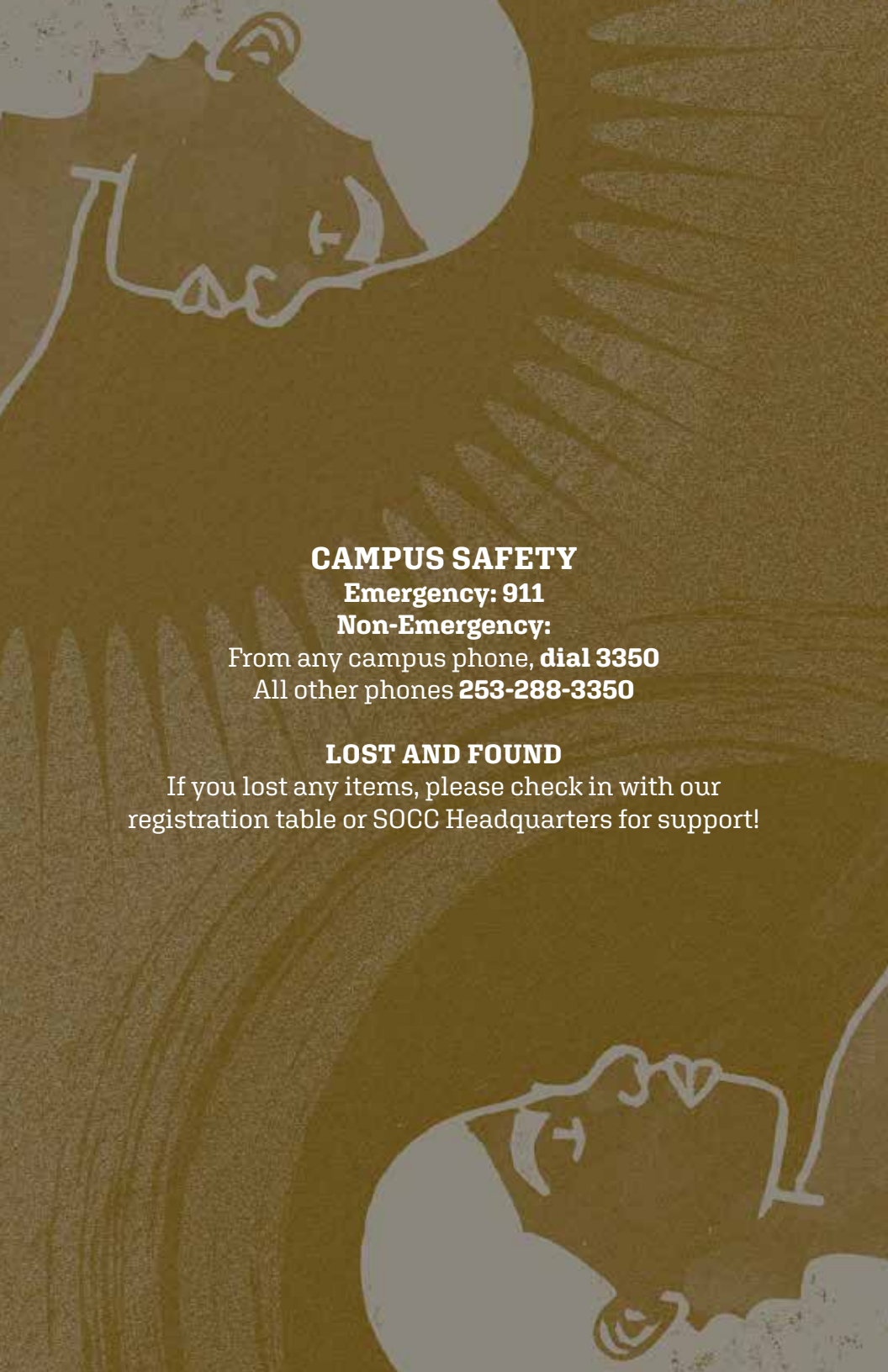
Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes

Notes



CAMPUS SAFETY

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency:

From any campus phone, **dial 3350**

All other phones **253-288-3350**

LOST AND FOUND

If you lost any items, please check in with our registration table or SOCC Headquarters for support!