



## WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome, and thank you for being part of the **36th Annual Students of Color Conference**. We are truly grateful for your partnership, leadership, and continued commitment to our students across Washington's community and technical college system.

This year's conference will be held virtually over two dynamic days. In prioritizing the safety and well-being of our students, advisors, and communities, we made the thoughtful decision to move to a virtual format. At the same time, we are offering regional host-site options so students can gather locally with neighboring colleges while still participating in the statewide experience. Our hope is to blend the accessibility and safety of a virtual conference with the power of in-person regional connection, ensuring students can build meaningful relationships both across the state and within their own communities.

Our 2026 theme, *Rooted in Resistance, Growing Toward Liberation*, speaks to the strength, resilience, and brilliance of our students. We are honored to feature two inspiring keynote speakers, Yosimar Reyes and Keisha B. Free, who will help ground and energize our shared experience.

Our hopes for this year's conference are simple yet meaningful. We hope students learn something that stretches their thinking and affirms their identities. We hope they leave with at least one tangible tool, idea, or strategy they can implement in their personal, academic, or leadership journeys. We hope they find opportunities for authentic connection with one another, with advisors, and with our broader college community. Most importantly, we hope they feel safe, seen, valued, and celebrated.

Even in a virtual format, we are committed to creating an experience that feels engaging, interactive, and joyful, filled with meaningful dialogue, moments of laughter, and space for reflection and growth.

Thank you for helping us cultivate an environment where our students can continue to be rooted in resistance and grow toward liberation. We look forward to building this experience together.

In solidarity,

Debbie Joyner  
Spokane Community College  
Conference Co-Chair

Yusuke Okazaki  
Whatcom Community College  
Conference Co-Chair



## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE & OVERVIEW

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Position	Name	Contact
President	Edwina Fui	efui@highline.edu
Vice President	Eduardo Torres	eduardo.torres@edmonds.edu
Conference Co-Organizer	Debbie Joyner	debbie.joyner@scc.spokane.edu
Conference Co-Organizer	Yusuke Okazaki	yokazaki@whatcom.edu
Registration Lead	Cindy Arias	carias@highline.edu



Dear Multicultural Student Services Directors' Council (MSSDC) Member/Advisor:

Congratulations on your decision to register students for the 36th Annual Students of Color Conference sponsored by the Multicultural Student Services Director's Council. This year's conference, "*Rooted in Resistance, Growing toward Liberation*," will be held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, April 30th, and Friday, May 1st, 2026.

In an effort to assist you in preparing for the Conference, we have organized the Conference materials as follows:

- Registration Information
  - The following provides information on registering through Guidebook, payment information, etc.
- FAQs & Advisor Information
  - The following includes frequently asked questions and additional information that may be helpful to Advisors.

If you have any questions about this process or any of the documents, please contact us at [mssdcexec@gmail.com](mailto:mssdcexec@gmail.com).

Again, it is our privilege to virtually host the 36th annual Students of Color Conference with you and your students as our honored guests. We are very enthusiastic about your attendance and participation!

Sincerely,  
Students of Color Conference Planning Committee  
Multicultural Student Services Directors' Council



## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

### **Checklist**

The following checklist is the steps to complete to register and attend. Forms listed below should be kept with the advisor and submitted to the SOCC Planning Committee at the time of registration check-in:

1. [Complete Online Registration](#)
  
2. [Photo and Media Release Form & MSSDC Students of Color Conference Conduct Policies & Procedures](#)
  - o Each student should receive a copy of the policies & procedures. Students should read the document and sign the acknowledgement form.
  - o Each form **must** contain an advisor's signature.
  - o An acknowledgement form must be returned for each student.

### **Registration Instructions**

Registration for the Students of Color Conference will be online through a Google form that will be sent on March 13th. Advisors should have all student information (Caucus/Affinity Group, accommodations, etc.) before registering students.

### **Conference Pricing**

As the conference components are virtual this year, there is currently no registration capacity via Guidebook or Zoom. Moreover, there is no difference between student and advising pricing. The conference price this year is a **Campus Flat Fee of \$1,000**.

### **Payment Options**

Payment to register for the Students of Color Conference will be through invoice. Once the advisors fill out the invoice form (<https://forms.gle/Qg4wb7afvnsShFZD6>), the Multi-Cultural Student Services Directors Council Treasurer, Luke Ruiz, will send it out to the school

*\*Unless an institution is a multi-college district, then registration would be per campus of said institution. For more info, please contact [mssdcexec@gmail.com](mailto:mssdcexec@gmail.com)*

### ***Caucus/Affinity Groups and Identity Development Sessions***

Two of the sessions that will be offered at the Conference are caucus/affinity groups and identity development. To ensure these sessions remain intentional and within the bandwidth of the presenter's capacity, it is required that when registering students, they indicate which sessions they would like to attend. Below you can find a complete list of each session:

#### **Caucus/Affinity Group**

- African American/Black
- African
- Biracial/Multiracial
- Asian American
- Latinx/Latine
- Middle Eastern North African Arab American
- South/Central Asian
- Native American, First Nations & Indigenous
- Pacific Islander/Oceania
- White/Caucasian/Allies and Advocates

#### **Identity Development**

- Women
- Men
- Trans/Non-Binary/Gender Non-Conforming
- LGBTQIA+
- Muslim Identity
- Students with Disabilities
- Dreamers/Undocumented
- International
- Intersectional



## **Multicultural Student Services Directors' Council (MSSDC) Students of Color Conference Conduct Policies & Procedures**

We are pleased to have you and hundreds of other outstanding students from across Washington State join us for such a special event. The goal of the Students of Color Conference is to provide a fun, educational experience that promotes leadership, diversity, and academic success. It is also important to us that we provide a safe and appropriate environment for each participant.

All participants registered for the Students of Color Conference assume an obligation to act in a manner compatible with the conference function and as an extension of their respective institutions. Students are expected to maintain a high level of maturity, responsibility, and common sense regarding student conduct issues. You are responsible for the material outlined in this document. We expect you to comply with the conduct policies of MSSDC along with your institution's conduct code. Any violation of the code will immediately result in discipline and behavioral intervention consistent with the MSSDC policies and your college's policies.

Conference Committee Staff (CCS) will investigate allegations of violations of the conference regulations, refer the allegations to the student(s)' on-site Advisor, and submit to the respective Vice President of Student Services for further action. The Conference Committee Staff reserves the right to make the final determination regarding expulsion from the conference. **The student's return travel is at their own expense.\*** All other disciplinary action is at the discretion of the appropriate officials at the respective institutions.

All students, advisors, faculty, and staff are expected to follow the MSSDC Conduct Policies and Procedures while attending the Students of Color Conference.

### **FUTURE CONFERENCES:**

Any violation of policy will result in suspension from conference attendance for a minimum of one year. Exceptions to this policy need to be made in writing to the CCS. Permanent expulsion from the conference is at the sole discretion of the CCS.

***We have a zero-tolerance policy on alcohol, controlled substances, and weapons of any kind (concealed or otherwise).***



## **CONDUCT POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### ***Zoom Policy***

All attendees participating in the virtual conference assume an obligation to act in an appropriate manner based on MSSDC's and their respective institution's code of conduct policy. The conference strictly prohibits hateful conduct, violent threats, illegal activities, harassment of any kind, negative disruption, and unauthorized access.

### ***Alcohol Policy***

There is a zero-tolerance policy on alcohol and controlled substances. We recognize that students over the age of 21 have the right to consume alcoholic beverages. However, this conference is an extension of the colleges, and as such, the MSSDC elects to enforce on-site alcohol campus policies. Consequently, it is a violation of the MSSDC policy for any participant, regardless of age, to consume alcohol or use illegal substances.

For the purposes of this conference, possession of an open or empty alcohol container (including kegs) shall be interpreted as being consumed. If alcohol consumption is observed, heard, or smelled, it is also considered a violation of this policy. Attending a party where alcohol is present, being present in a room with any amount of alcohol, or assisting others in obtaining alcohol is strictly prohibited and a violation of the MSSDC policy.

### ***Controlled Substances***

Drugs and/or other illegal controlled substances are not permitted under any circumstances. Any student found in possession of, distribution of or use of controlled substances will be subject to the disciplinary procedures in the MSSDC policy, and law enforcement will be notified. If consumption is observed, heard, smelled, or reflected in behavior, it is also considered a violation of policy.

### ***Concealment of Violations / Complicity***

Your presence during any violation of Students of Color Conference Policies & Procedures ultimately condones, supports, and/or encourages the violation(s). Any student who anticipates or observes a violation online and/or in-person is expected to remove themselves from the environment immediately. Concealment of information is also considered a policy violation. Reference: Staff Direction.

### ***Harassment***

Physical, verbal, written, and/or sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Physical harm or the threat of physical harm to any person, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, assault/battery, and physical fights, will result in disciplinary action. There is to be no harassment of any person. This includes threats, malicious pranks, abusive name-calling, prank phone calls, and racial, gender, or sexual orientation harassment. This also includes abuse and/or harassment that is nonverbal or communicated through Zoom, e-mail, the Internet, regular mail, telephone, fax, etc. Students are expected to treat one another with respect at all times and conduct themselves in a mature and constructive manner.



## **Noise**

Unruly, inappropriate behavior and/or excess noise are unacceptable and considered a violation of MSSDC policy. Excess noise is generally defined as noise that is disturbing to other guests. Determination of what constitutes excess noise is at the sole discretion of the CCS.

## **Weapons**

Weapons of any kind are not permitted under any circumstances. This includes possession of firearms, explosives, other weapons, or dangerous chemicals, even if licensed to do so, except by commissioned police officers.

## **Staff Direction**

Students must follow the directions of the Conference Committee Staff & Advisors at all times. Being uncooperative or verbally abusive to staff, providing false information or failing to provide immediate identification (ID Card) and information to staff, or interfering with staff while they are performing their duties, is unacceptable. Abuse of staff and non-compliance will not be tolerated.

Abusive behavior includes, but is not limited to, physically threatening conduct, verbal/written threats and harassment, use of profanity, and abusive name-calling. This also includes abuse and/or harassment that is nonverbal.

## **DISCIPLINARY ACTION PROCESS**

### **Alcohol**

As an activity that is an extension of the institution, alcohol consumption by students is strictly prohibited regardless of age. Possession of an open or empty alcohol container shall be interpreted as being consumed. If alcohol consumption is observed, heard, or smelled, it is also considered a violation of MSSDC policy. Any student who is in violation of this policy will have their on-site advisor contacted, and an incident report will be documented with a copy distributed to the on-site advisor, the respective Vice President of Student Services, and the MSSDC Executive Council.

### **Drugs & other controlled substances**

Any use of drugs or other controlled substances will result in the CCS contacting law enforcement. An incident report will be documented with a copy given to the on-site advisor, the respective VP of Student Services, and the MSSDC Executive Council. **The student's return travel is at their own expense.** Expulsion from the conference is at the sole discretion of the CCS.

### **Harassing Behavior**

Physical, mental, or sexual harassment will not be tolerated and is considered a violation of the MSSDC policy. Any student who is in violation of this policy will have the on-site advisor contacted, an incident report documented with a copy given to the on-site advisor, the respective Vice President of Student Services, and the MSSDC Executive Council.

### **Any Violation**

Any participant who is in violation of the conduct policies set forth will have their on-site advisor contacted and an incident report will be documented. Copies of the report will be distributed to the on-site advisor, the respective Vice President of Student Services, and the MSSDC Executive Council. Expulsion from the conference is at the sole discretion of the CCS. **The student's return travel is at their own expense.**



MULTICULTURAL STUDENT  
SERVICES DIRECTORS' COUNCIL

## EXAMPLE OF STUDENTS OF COLOR CONFERENCE

### CONDUCT POLICIES & PROCEDURES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Below is an example of the conference's conduct policies and procedures acknowledgment for students. To accommodate our virtual format, we have transitioned this acknowledgment to an [online form](#).

#### STUDENT:

I acknowledge that I read, understand and accept the terms and conditions outlined in the SOCC Student Conduct Policy & Procedures..

Student Name (*Please Print*)      Signature

School/Institution      Date

If participant is under 18 years of age:

Parent/Guardian Name      Date

#### ADVISOR:

I acknowledge that I read, understand and accept the terms and conditions of my role as advisor outlined in the SOCC Student Conduct Policy & Procedures.

Advisor      (*Please Print*)      Advisor Signature

Email Address      Phone number



## STUDENTS OF COLOR CONFERENCE PHOTO & FILM RELEASE FORM

I hereby consent to and authorize the use and reproduction by Washington State Multicultural Student Services Directors' Council, and its agents, of any photograph, image, likeness, or testimonial statement which you take of/from me for any purpose to further the educational goals of the college. I do this willingly, without compensation or gratuity to me and/or my agent(s). All negatives, positives, prints, and recordings shall constitute Washington State Multicultural Student Services Directors' Council property solely and completely, and may be used in print, broadcast, and/or electronic media.

*Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Name:*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Address:*

\_\_\_\_\_

<i>Street</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>
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\_\_\_\_\_

*If the applicant is a minor:*

*Parent or Guardian Name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Parent or Guardian Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Witnessed by:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

# FAQs & ADVISOR INFORMATION

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

- *When and where is the Students of Color Conference 2026?*
  - The Students of Color Conference (SOCC) will be held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, April 30th, and Friday, May 1st, 2026.
  - Colleges will respectively choose their preferred modality and support for their individual participants between in-person (regional), hybrid, and/or online.
  - To learn the closest Regional Host Site, please contact the Conference Co-Organizers Debbie Joyner ( [debbie.joyner@scc.spokane.edu](mailto:debbie.joyner@scc.spokane.edu)) and Yusuke Okazaki ([yokazaki@whatcom.edu](mailto:yokazaki@whatcom.edu))
- *Where can I register?*
  - Advisors can register their group on a [Google form](#), where the registration team will add them to Guidebook for schedule and app (software) access. Please note that ticketing for student attendees is in group format, so it is required that advisors complete registration on their students' behalf.
- *How much is registration?*
  - The conference price this year is a **Campus Flat Fee of \$1,000** for an unlimited number of students (capacity based on the institution's capabilities).
- *When does registration open and close?*
  - Registration Opens: Friday, March 13th, 2026.
  - Registration Closes: Friday, April 10th, 2026.
  - Link to registration: <https://forms.gle/F6PwrQcZYRcjc4vq8>
- *When is advisors information session?*
  - Wednesday, April 15th at 10 AM via Zoom
  - Thursday, April 16th at 2 PM via Zoom
- *Is there a cap on how many students and advisors are allowed to attend from an institution?*
  - For conference application (Guidebook) and online participation (Zoom), there is no capacity limit.
  - For Regional Host Sites, there will be a capacity limit based on the hosting institution's capabilities. (E.g., Food, Transportation, Lodgings, etc.) We encourage Advisors to check in with their colleagues at the Regional Host Site. To learn the closest Regional Host Site, please contact the Conference Co-Organizers.
- *My institution is part of a multi-college district. What would registration look like for my institution?*
  - If your campus has been identified as one of the multi-college districts within the WA CTCs, advisors should connect with the Conference Co-Organizers via email. Advisors unsure if their campus qualifies as a multi-college district should contact the MSSDC President.
- *What sessions will be available at the Conference? How can I find out more information about sessions, agendas, and keynotes?*

- The SOCC Planning Committee hosts various workshops that speak to its five pillars: Identity Development, Awareness of Others, Skills Development, Social Justice and Social Activism, and Personal Development. Students and Advisors can find out more information about the Conference and session offerings by visiting the SOCC Website or the conference's event management application. The SOCC Planning Committee will provide updates and announcements closer to the conference. **We also encourage attendees to download the Guidebook app to get real-time updates, plan out their day-to-day agendas, and network with others.**

## **Advisor Information**

### **Travel Exception Rule**

This is the rule that allows institutions that are within a 50-mile radius to stay overnight. This applies to institutions that are traveling to their regional host site. Included in this packet are excerpts from the [WA Office of Financial Management State Administrative and Accounting Manual](#). Advisors should connect with their institution's Business Office for more information and inquiries.

### **Things to Know**

- Each institution must send an advisor with their students. Policies differ for each institution, but up to two (2) advisors can register and attend.
- Each institution must identify one (1) advisor who will serve as the point of contact (POC). This individual will be contacted in the event of a code of conduct violation, emergencies, or any other situation that arises with the institution.
- The SOCC Planning Committee relies on advisors to help the conference be successful and safe. Advisors are asked to monitor hallways and doorways during meals and events, and escort students off-campus (i.e., hotels).
- Students learn from the actions of the staff. The SOCC Planning Committee expects that advisors will model professional behavior during this conference. To that end, advisors are expected to adhere to the no-alcohol policy.
- Included in this packet is an example SOCC Travel Form for you to reference. This form includes emergency contact information, a medical questionnaire, and a release/assumption of risks. Institutions often require these documents when students travel. Do NOT return institutional forms with your registration. Instead, we suggest that advisors keep these documents for their records.

### **Hotel Information**

Each institution is responsible for managing its own reservation. We are requesting that institutions inform us once reservations are made by [completing this form](#) for record-keeping.

# THE 50-MILE RULE

This is provided for those colleges within a fifty-mile radius to support your request for authorization through your administration for student overnight travel in case your institution decides to stay overnight for the regional host conference. For more information, please visit the [WA Office of Financial Management State Administrative and Accounting Manual](#).

## **10.30.30 August 1, 2023**

### **What types of lodging costs are reimbursable?**

#### 10.30.30.a

The maximum reimbursable lodging rate includes, but is not limited to, the basic commercial lodging cost, resort fees, cleaning fees, and service fees. The only additional lodging expenses that are reimbursable beyond the maximum lodging rate are any applicable sales taxes and/or hotel/motel taxes on those amounts. Lodging costs in excess of the allowance and the associated taxes on the excess will be paid by the traveler. When this occurs, taxes are to be prorated between the allowable and unallowable costs.

### **50-Mile Rule**

#### 10.30.30.b

Reimbursement is allowed for lodging expenses when the temporary duty station is located more than fifty (50) miles (most direct route) of the closer of either the traveler's official residence or official workstation for travel reimbursement.

Under one of the following conditions, reimbursement for lodging expenses is allowed when the temporary duty station is located within fifty (50) miles (most direct route) of the closer of either the traveler's official residence or official workstation for travel reimbursement:

1. An overnight stay in a commercial lodging facility to avoid having a traveler drive back and forth for back-to-back late-night/early-morning official state business.
2. When the health and safety of travelers is of concern, as provided for in Subsection 10.10.35.
3. When an agency can demonstrate that staying overnight is more economical to the state.

Agencies may request an exception to this regulation for other conditions from the Director of OFM.

Written supervisory approval for the first and third conditions and cost analysis documentation for the third condition is to be attached to the traveler's Travel Expense Voucher. Approval and documentation requirements for use of the second condition are contained in Subsection 10.10.35.

#### **10.30.30.c**

Agencies when making conference registrations may when required by the lodging facility make reimbursement for up to one night lodging costs, plus applicable taxes when a travel advance is not allowable under Subsection 10.80.60. Prior authorization of the agency head of designee is required, and if conference registration is cancelled, the agency is to seek reimbursement of the costs from the lodging facility. To prevent abuse in this area agencies should strictly adhere to

Section 10.10 Travel Management Requirements and Restrictions and have written internal policies and procedures for when these transactions may be allowable.

## **PRE-CONFERENCE BRIEFING INSTRUCTIONS**

The Multicultural Student Services Directors' Council highly recommends that you meet with your students prior to leaving your campus. Please distribute to and discuss with your students the pre-conference materials found in this packet, which include:

- Student Welcome Letter
- Conduct Code Policies & Procedures
- Conference Flyer
- Ground Rules for Group Discussions

Other topics you may want to cover in a pre-conference briefing:

- Inform students of the check-in procedure.
- Inform students if they are allowed to leave the conference site (many institutions do not allow students off-site, but the Conference Committee has no formal policy).
- Schedule & letter
- Talk about food
- Talk about technology
- Hotel rooms, if your school decides to book any for the regional connection.
- Provide the hotel address and phone number for the students to give to their emergency contact.
- Review the purpose of the conference with students so they have appropriate expectations.
- You have been provided with examples of Release/Assumptions of Risks and Medical Questionnaires. Your institution may have similar documents that you are required to have signed. These documents are for your individual institution and are not to be returned with your registration materials.



## **WELCOME TO THE 36TH STUDENTS OF COLOR CONFERENCE!**

*Spring 2026*

Dear Student Leader,

Congratulations! You've been selected to attend the 36th Annual Students of Color Conference! We are beyond excited to welcome you and hundreds of incredible students from across Washington State to this powerful experience. Even though we'll be gathering virtually, we are committed to making this conference engaging, interactive, and full of energy. You can absolutely expect to learn, connect, and have a great time. We hope you leave feeling inspired, confident in your voice, and more connected to a community that celebrates who you are and who you're becoming.

The Multicultural Student Services Directors' Council is dedicated to creating a fun, meaningful experience that promotes leadership, diversity, and academic success. Just as importantly, we are committed to providing a safe and welcoming environment where every participant feels seen, valued, and supported. The following outlines our expectations to help ensure a successful and impactful conference for all.

Please remember that as a student representative, your behavior during the conference reflects your college and your role as a student leader. Please be cordial and respectful to your fellow conference participants and staff. We expect you to comply with the Conference Conduct Policies & Procedures. By signing the form, you acknowledge that you read, understand, and will comply with these policies. Any violation of the Conduct Policies & Procedures will immediately result in discipline and behavioral intervention outlined in these disciplinary Conduct Policies & Procedures. Please note that you may be subject to additional disciplinary action according to your institution's policy. We have a zero-tolerance policy on alcohol and controlled substances.

You are encouraged to socialize with others, and we have provided time in the conference schedule for informal visiting. However, the first priority is your leadership development. Therefore, we believe you will benefit most by participating fully in workshops that address challenging topics, including cultural identity and how to unify diverse college communities. In order to create productive group discussions, we have included a list of Ground Rules for Group Discussions About Diversity, Multiculturalism, and Equality. Please take the time to read and discuss the list with your advisor prior to the conference.

Again, it is our privilege to host the 36th Annual Students of Color Conference with you as our honored guest. We are very enthusiastic about your attendance and participation!

Sincerely,

Students of Color Conference Planning Committee  
Multicultural Student Services Directors' Council

## **GROUND RULES FOR GROUP DISCUSSIONS ABOUT DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION**

1. Contributions are welcome, and open discussion is encouraged with respect to your college's Student Conduct Code. In order to have a productive discussion, participants must be honest with others and themselves.
2. 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.
3. Assume that everyone participating is doing the best they can to listen and understand the topics presented.
4. Never demean, devalue, or in any way embarrass people for their experiences, should they choose to share openly. Humor is welcome, but shaming behavior is not.
5. 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.
6. Allow each person to speak without interruption.
7. Acknowledge that inequalities of privilege and power according to race/ethnicity, nationality, class, gender identity, age, religion, socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, and sexual orientation exist in our social structure.
8. Acknowledge definitions, terms, and examples discussed as samples of institutional and structural conditioning that 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 other diverse people in our global community.
11. In the virtual space, please use the video conferencing tools to participate effectively, including muting/unmuting when speaking, using the chat to ask questions or share comments, and using a microphone if in a large group.