



**Western Region Continuums of Service Consortium**

**Honolulu, Hawai'i • March 14 – 17, 2023**

# **Western Region Continuums of Service Conference**

## Conference Title

Turning the Tides, Renewing our Energy

## Conference Theme Statement

The Western Region Continuums of Service (COS) Consortium will host its 2023 Continuums of Service Conference in a hybrid 4-day format with in-person and virtual engagement options for attendees. In 2021, when we last hosted COS, we were focused on the broader context of social injustice and climate change. Honoring the work that has been done and recognizing that these long-term grand challenges persist at home and abroad, we now think and act within a broader and perilous context of COVID-19, the increased likelihood of new and varying infectious diseases, and new threats to democracy and equity in an even more uncertain world. How do we turn the tide on these tremendous challenges we face and renew our energy to ameliorate them – urgently and for the long-term?

Colleges went online. Our partners in the community restricted their operations. Students stayed home. Active participants in the Continuums of Service conference will explore the following themes: How have our higher education programs worked with community organizations, government and K-12, and private sector partners to address new practical and forms grand challenges? What struggles did we face and overcome? What new opportunities and collaborations arose and how did we fulfill them, such as through the use of technology? How did we (re-)engage our students and their learning? How did we revitalize our overall approach, expand our knowledge and understanding, build capacity, garner resources, and adapt operations in the face of these practical and grand challenges? How do we revitalize ourselves in the face of higher education’s challenges to explore power, privilege and positionality, and inspire and mobilize action and advocacy to tackle grand challenges -- social, ecological, and economic - that we are all facing?

As these challenges will likely increase over time, a big focus for the conference this year will be on cultivating sustainability and resilience, keeping ourselves grounded in place, and bridging across multiple social, biophysical, energy and capital dimensions for whole systems thinking and relationship building. From the campus to the community, from the mountains to the sea, turning the tides requires embracing complex systems and nurturing the ability to bounce forward, not back, after crises. At our conference this year, participants will have a chance to put this into practice both virtually and remotely.

## Conference Overview

This year’s conference will be very different than previous COS conferences. Instead of full days of concurrent sessions, we have designed a conference with a mixture self-reflective time, context-setting storytelling, community service experiences, community conversations and thematic poster sessions. There will also be a virtual registration option allowing people to view keynote addresses, plenaries, and other sessions.

Each morning participants, virtually and in-person, will have a chance to connect to nature, culture and place through a live-streamed sunrise movement practice on the beach supporting personal resilience and renewal. Attendees will then hear from keynote speakers and storytellers to build their energy to turn the tide on current and future challenges.

Each early afternoon, in-person visits to long-term community partners will provide participants with opportunities to serve, learn and reflect on our urgent and shared work ahead. On Wednesday and Thursday afternoons we will have different opportunities for Community Conversations and Thematic Poster sessions, where we hope to accommodate a rich variety of higher education adaptations and innovations.

Our goals for the conference are to:

- Accentuate and expand knowledge and understanding that turns the tide on our greater challenges
- Identify campus and community collaborations and partnerships to address these greater challenges
- Share tactics and strategies for building intra-and inter-campus relationships and practices for individual and community resilience and renewal
- Share strategies, approaches, states of mind that renew ourselves and our partners in the face of the practical and greater challenges
- Build working relationships and networks for future collective action and durable partnerships

**Presentation categories:**

- **Community Conversations – 75 minute concurrent session**
  - Community Conversations provide a venue through which presenters bring a question or concept to the table for deliberation. Presenters introduce the question or concept and participants engage with one another in dialogue around that topic. Community Conversations are highly interactive and allow for space to deliberate and discuss field-level issues. Community Conversations will not have AV support, as the intention is to make these sessions true dialogues among participants.
- **Thematic Poster Sessions - 75 minute concurrent session**
  - Posters will be thematically grouped with three-five posters sharing a common theme or focus and will be set up in a breakout room. Each poster in a Thematic Poster Session group will be displayed on a poster board (no additional audiovisual aids are permitted). Conference participants will have 15 minutes to view the posters in that session, 3 minutes to hear oral summaries of each poster, 30 minutes for group discussion and 15 minutes for closing reflections. An invited moderator facilitates discussion and encourages participants to raise questions and share experiences pertinent to themes raised by the posters.

**Session Proposal due date:** October 7, 2022, 11:59 pm

**Selection process:** All submissions will be peer reviewed. Lead Presenters will be notified by **November 10, 2022** whether or not their proposal has been accepted. Applicants will indicate if they are interested in a community conversations session or a thematic poster session. ***Please note that this submission process is for the in-person component of the conference, and one presenter from every accepted session must plan to attend the conference in-person.***

**Submission link:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COS2023>

**Questions about the Call for Proposals?** Contact Piper McGinley, [piper@leadcalifornia.org](mailto:piper@leadcalifornia.org)

## Proposal Submission Guidelines

1. **Presenter Information:** Contact information for all presenters (*Note: While you may have an unlimited number of presenters, only 2 presenters per accepted session will be permitted to pre-register for the conference in advance of general registration.*)
2. **Lead Presenter Membership Information:** Please indicate if your campus is a member of [drop down menu] – Campus Compact of Oregon, Hawaii Pacific Islands Campus Compact, LEAD California, Montana Campus Compact, Washington Campus Coalition for the Common Good, or My organization is not a campus.
3. **Proposal Category:** Please indicate which session you are interested in applying for (drop down menu):
  - Community Conversations
  - Thematic Poster Session
4. **Proposal Title:** Please write the title of your presentation. [text box]
5. **Proposal Abstract:** Summary of your session that will motivate conference attendees to attend. (Not to exceed 80 words/400 characters to be included in conference program) [text box]
6. **Proposal Description:** Describe your session. Consider including the purpose, objectives, partners, and impacts. (Not to exceed 400 words/2000 characters). [text box]
7. **Thematic Alignment:** Please mark the thematic thread that you feel *most applies* to your session: [drop down menu]
  - Community-Campus Collaborations and Partnerships
  - Institutional Challenges Ongoing and Addressed
  - Adapting operations
  - Use of technology
  - Re-engaging students and their learning, their belonging and becoming
  - Expanding knowledge, research, assessment and understanding
  - Building capacity and garnering resources
  - Personal and programmatic revitalization
8. **Thematic Alignment:** Please mark a *second thematic thread* that applies to your session [drop down menu]:
  - Community-Campus Collaborations and Partnerships
  - Institutional Challenges Ongoing and Addressed
  - Adapting operations
  - Use of technology
  - Re-engaging students and their learning, their belonging and becoming
  - Expanding knowledge, research, assessment and understanding
  - Building capacity and garnering resources
  - Personal and programmatic revitalization
  - None or n/a