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PACIFIC NORTHWEST TO HOST VISION 2020 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

PHILADELPHIA- (October 18, 2013)- [Vision 2020](#), a national initiative to advance women's economic and social equality, will host its Northwest Regional Conference on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at the Portland Hilton and invites the larger community to attend.

The focus of the conference is on women and leadership and two former women governors, Hon. Barbara Roberts of Oregon and Hon. Christine Gregoire of Washington, will open the conference as keynote speakers. Roberts is a member of Vision 2020's National Leadership.

Other participants include Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown and Washington Secretary of State Kim Wyman, as well as DJ Wilson, General Manager of KGW Media Group, and a representative of the Portland Thorns FC, a professional women's soccer team.

Topics discussed will range from executive leadership, voter mobilization and women's participation in politics, to a conversation on Title IX.

Vision 2020 is a national coalition of organizations and individuals united in the commitment to achieve women's economic and social equality. It champions shared leadership among women and men with a goal of 50-50 by the year 2020, when the nation celebrates the centennial of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. Vision 2020 is comprised of 75 Allied organizations representing over 20 million people, 135 Delegates across the country who work to advance the Vision 2020 mission and 12 National Advisors providing strategic guidance.

In 2012, Vision 2020's Third National Congress was held in Portland, coinciding with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Oregon.

"With the Northwest Regional Conference, Vision 2020 will continue the national conversation about shared leadership among women and men in all professions and the power of women's voices in politics," said Lynn Yeakel, Executive Director of Vision 2020. "We applaud the women leaders in the Northwest, especially the Vision 2020 Oregon Delegates for spearheading this conference."

The Vision 2020 Northwest Regional Conference is open to the public. [Registration](#) for the conference (9:00 am-4:30 pm) and the reception (4:30-6:30 pm) is required.

Organizers of the conference are Vision 2020 Oregon Delegates **Gale Castillo**, President of the Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber , and **Cheryl Myers**, Director of Economic & Business Equity in the Oregon Governor's Office. Host committee members include Vision 2020 Oregon Delegate **Barbara Ramirez Spencer**; Washington Delegates **Susan Astley** and **Samantha Smithingell** as well as **Cyreena Boston Ashley**, Portland African American Leadership Forum; **Kate Brown**, Oregon Secretary of State; **Kathleen Chaves**, CEO, Chaves Consulting; **Elisa Dozono**, Miller Nash; **Rhonnda Parsons Edmiston**, Howard S. Wright Constructors; **Deb France**, Owner, Oh Planning & Design; **Leslie Garcia**, Oregon Health Science University; **Alissa Keny-Guyer**, Or. State Rep.; **Elizabeth Nye**, Girls, Inc.; **Sunny Petit**, Portland State University; **Deena Pierott**, iUrban Teen Tech; **Melody Rose**, Ph.D., Oregon University System; **Siobhan Taylor**, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; **Mary Tomlinson**, Chaves Consulting; **DJ Wilson**, KGW Media Group .

Sponsors of the [Conference](#) include Portland General Electric, Wells Fargo, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Banner Bank, and Oregon Health & Science University.

Vision 2020 is a project of Drexel University College of Medicine's Institute for Women's Health and Leadership. In 2013, Vision 2020 is participating in regional conferences in Charlotte, NC, Nashville, TN and Omaha, NE,. Click [here](#) for more information.