

2025 Summit Speakers

Keynote Speaker: Marty Alvarado



Marty Alvarado is a passionate advocate for equity and transformative education, with over two decades of experience driving impactful change across education and workforce development systems. Her career highlights include serving as Executive Vice Chancellor for the Office of Equitable Student Learning, Experience, and Impact at the California Community College Chancellor's Office. In this pivotal role, Marty provided visionary leadership across the state's extensive community college system, encompassing 116 campuses and 73 districts. She spearheaded initiatives focused on enhancing teaching and learning, student support services, and workforce development, all aimed at bolstering student outcomes and advancing the system's Vision for Success.

During her tenure, Marty played a crucial role in shaping state policy and advocating for budget allocations critical to the community college system's success. She led the implementation of transformative legislative priorities, including Guided Pathways, competency-based education, and reforms in remedial education and funding formulas. In response to the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and societal unrest, Marty swiftly pivoted the system to fully online instruction and support services, ensuring stability and continuity for students and faculty alike.

Marty's leadership was marked by her unwavering commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. She championed systemic reforms that prioritized equitable access to education and supported initiatives fostering economic mobility statewide. Marty's experience at the helm of California's community college system underscores her deep understanding of educational policy, program development, and strategic leadership in higher education. Her contributions have left a lasting impact on the landscape of community college education in California and beyond.

Beyond her role as Executive Vice Chancellor, Marty continued to shape the future of education and workforce development as Vice President of PostSecondary Education and Training at JFF. Here, she pioneered inclusive strategies that dismantle systemic barriers and empower individuals from diverse backgrounds. Marty remains a sought-after speaker and advisor on issues critical to education, workforce development, and economic opportunity, driven by her dedication to lifelong learning and equitable access to quality education and training.

Keynote Introduction: Marshall Roache



Marshall Roache is the President of Oregon Coast Community College. Prior to coming to the coast, he worked for Chemeketa Community College, where he oversaw key areas including Health Sciences programming—such as nursing and dental assisting—as well as applied technologies, apprenticeship programs, and the College’s Brooks Regional Training Center. Roache is no stranger to life on the Oregon Coast, having worked as the general manager of his family’s business in Cannon Beach from 1994 to 2003. His background also includes serving as a patrol officer and detective before joining Chemeketa as adjunct faculty in Criminal Justice in 2011. He and his wife Leslie currently reside in Newport.

Roache holds a Master’s Degree in Organizational Leadership from Fort Hays State University and a Bachelor’s in English from the University of Oregon, where he competed as a Division I collegiate wrestler. He completed his Doctorate in Education at the University of Southern Mississippi in December 2024.

Presentation: Data from the Oregon Employment Department



Jeff McAllister initially studied Philosophy and Spanish at Portland State University's Honors College, later graduating from Southern Oregon University with a degree in Economics and a finance certificate. His career began as a research associate at MDC Research, a market research firm in Portland, OR. He has over a decade of experience in management and sales from both the manufacturing and retail sides of the cycling industry. In his current role as a Workforce Analyst with the Employment Department he provides labor market data and analysis to Oregon businesses and organizations to

spark discussion and inform their decision-making.

Blue Economy Panel

Moderator: Mark Farley



Mark Farley is the Associate Director for Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center. Mark works as chief of staff for Hatfield, oversees research operations, capital projects, and co-leads Oregon's Blue Sector Network; a coast-wide economic development and workforce initiative. His work supports strategic partnerships, new initiatives, major projects, and grant development with state, and federal funding agencies.

Prior to his time with Oregon State University Mark was the Vice President of Client Development for PathWorks, Inc., a company who specialized in interactive media and business development creating products and strategies for national clients such as; General Electric, Starbucks, Smithsonian, Apple Computer, Department of Energy, US Air Force, National Geographic, and Weyerhaeuser.

Panelist: Angee Doerr



Angee Doerr is the Oregon Sea Grant and Oregon State University Marine Resources Extension specialist for Lincoln County. Angee is an interdisciplinary ecologist and social scientist focusing on marine systems on the West Coast. In her role with Oregon Sea Grant, she focuses on commercial fisheries and marine coastal resources, providing community outreach and education on subjects ranging from marine resource management to nearshore energy and sustainable economic growth for coastal industries. Angee works closely with community partners, including commercial fishermen, managers, and

researchers, to advance our understanding of fisheries, aquaculture, and other marine resources in Oregon and along the West Coast. She holds a BS, an MBA, an MA, and a Ph.D. focused on socially and ecologically sustainable fisheries. Angee is also a Captain in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Panelist: Miram Gleiber



Dr. Miram Gleiber is a biological oceanographer studying marine food web interactions and how they are influenced by climate change. Her research focuses on albacore tuna feeding preferences and developing seasonal forecasts of their prey distributions off the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Gleiber has published a global database cataloging the characteristics of over 500 prey species for ocean predators to support research into climate-resilient fisheries. Since 2021, she has been a Senior Research Associate working remotely for the University of Alberta, collaborating with scientists at NOAA and OSU. Dr. Gleiber

holds a Ph.D. from OSU (2020), an M.Sc. from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (2014), a B.Sc. from The College of William and Mary (2010), and has lived in Newport, Oregon, for the last ten years.

Panelist: Geoff Laird



Captain Geoffrey Laird owns and operates Depth Perception Charters in Newport, Oregon. He is a native Oregonian with a lifetime of experience on both salt and fresh water. Capt. Laird has been a professional fishing guide for over two decades, a USCG captain, and has guided in Alaska, Mexico, Chile, and Oregon. His current guiding and charter activities span the state of Oregon and include adventures such as offshore expeditions for saltwater pelagic species, jet-boating through class 4 rapids to seek salmon in total solitude, and rowing through tumbling rapids to cast flies to hungry trout in emerald green pools. Formally educated at Oregon State University (B.S. Natural Resources / Watershed Management, M.S. Math and Science Education), Geoffrey assumes the humble role of a lifelong learner and aspires to create teachable moments. Depth Perception Charters offers saltwater excursions aboard a 30 foot Defiance Marine, for more details visit <https://depthperceptioncharters.com/> and Instagram @FV_Foglifter.

Municipal Lightning Round

Mayor Berdie



Craig Berdie's early career was in data communications project management, including a residence in Europe. Next, he spent ten years developing sales and leadership programs. He combined these experiences, and as an employee of a federal and state economic development service consulted with over four hundred small businesses on how to use the Internet to grow their business. His last position was as the Global Search Engine Marketing Manager at 3M corporation.

As Yachats mayor, Mr. Berdie has focused on establishing clear measurable objectives developed collaboratively with staff, commissions, and citizens. These goals provide a roadmap for the City Manager to allocate resources and direct staff. During his tenure, the city has improved water sustainability and implemented long-delayed infrastructure projects. Simultaneously, the city has moved forward with several stalled large projects of value to the citizens and visitors.

Craig believes deeply in preserving the natural landscape around Yachats. He is an active member of the city's trail team, and volunteers at Gerdemann Botanical Preserve and intermittently at Midcoast Watershed Council. With his wife, they develop and maintain Prospect Park, a native plant demonstration space.

Mayor Cross



Rod Cross has served the City of Toledo in several capacities over the years, and is currently in his ninth year as Mayor which marks his nineteenth year in public office. He's been married to the most wonderful Emeree Cross for over thirty-six years, and raised five sons in Toledo as a stay-at-home Dad. Rod also continues to coach in the community at all levels including Toledo Junior Senior High School. GO BOOMERS!

Mayor Kaplan



Jan Kaplan has served on the Newport City Council since January 2022 and as Mayor since July 2023. Originally from the East Coast he has a Master's Degree in Clinical Social Work. He directed Mental Health and Public Health services in three different counties and as such, worked under three very different County governments. His highest priority areas are replacing the Big Creek Dam in Newport and developing housing for the houseless and for the workforce. He is pursuing strategies to encourage citizens to aspire to local elected office.

Mayor Short



Kathy Short has served the City of Depoe Bay as their mayor since 2021 and prior to that served on City Council. Kathy's professional background includes management, recruiting, and sales in the staffing industry. She has been a resident of the Depoe Bay area since January 2018, after two decades of vacationing in the region. Her leadership reflects a commitment to enhancing the quality of life for Depoe Bay residents and promoting the city's unique charm.

Mayor Wahlke



Susan Wahlke moved to north Lincoln County 33 years ago. Soon after moving here, Susan was hired by the City of Lincoln City and worked in the City Attorney's office and also for the Chief of Police. After leaving City employment, she worked for attorneys in Lincoln City until retiring after 30 years as a legal secretary.

For many years she was an active Lincoln City Chamber Ambassador, and served as a Chamber board member.

Wanting to become more involved, she was appointed to the City budget committee, and in 2014 was elected to City Council. After serving four years as a City Councilor, she ran for Mayor and lost. She was then appointed to the budget committee again, so has been a part of Lincoln City's budget process since 2012. When the position of mayor became vacant, she was happy to run again and was elected as Mayor in May of 2021 to fill the unexpired term. She was re-elected in November of 2022 to serve an additional four years.

Susan has two daughters and three bonus daughters. She has three granddaughters and six grandsons. Her youngest grandson, who is 5 years old, lives in Lincoln County, and she is thrilled when she gets to spend time with him.

Married to a musician, she and Bob attend as many live music events as possible.

Local Entrepreneurs Panel

Moderator: Gregory Price



Gregory Price is the Director of The Columbia Gorge and Oregon Coast Small Business Development Centers and is the national chair for disaster planning and recovery for America SBDC. He earned his master's in business administration from Portland State University where he was also a professor in the graduate school of business but more notable, Greg is a graduate from our very own Taft High! Greg has 25 years of business development experience.

As a serial entrepreneur, Greg has founded and operated numerous for-profit and non-profit companies from his last business, financial modeling and forecasting for the renewable energy industry, to his first enterprise at 12 years old catching and selling saltwater eels here on the Oregon Coast, proof that is never too early to be an entrepreneur! Throughout his tenure he has consulted and advised hundreds of small businesses of all kinds. Now Greg is using his experience to be of service supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs in our community.

Panelist: Jennifer Clampit



Double Take Donuts opened in December 2023 as a small, family-owned donut shop in Toledo, OR. **Jennifer Clampit** started Double Take to create meaningful opportunities for her daughters, Kaylie and Sarah Matheny, both adults with special needs.

With three generations working together daily, Double Take Donuts is truly a family effort. The team includes Jennifer (Mom), Kathy (Grandma), Kaylie, Sarah, Penny,

and Corbin (the siblings!), along with Justin (Jennifer's fiancé) and Rebecca (Justin's mom).

Their goal is simple: to provide the best service and highest quality donuts while becoming a memorable part of our community. They hope their little shop brings joy and happiness to everyone who visits!

Panelist: Todd Korgan



Todd Korgan is an Oregon and Las Vegas-based hospitality and real estate entrepreneur, as well as an award-winning screenwriter, director, and filmmaker. Before diving into the worlds of filmmaking and hospitality, Todd was a disco DJ in the 1980s, produced and directed live theater, and was an executive chef at his family's restaurant in Portland, Oregon. His diverse life experiences have informed his creative style that comes through in both Todd's storytelling and his approach to business and entrepreneurship.

As a filmmaker, Todd's commercials have earned prestigious accolades, including ADDY and Telly awards. He has collaborated with high-profile brands such as Nike, ESPN, Adidas, Comedy Central, and many others, bringing his signature comedic style to campaigns that resonate with audiences across the globe. On the big screen, Todd's short films have been honored at over two hundred film festivals worldwide, including Sundance, Hollywood, and Berlin, and have received acclaim from industry icons including Matt Groening, Matt Stone, and Trey Parker. Known for his keen eye for casting and ability to evoke authentic performances, Todd has worked with top-tier talent such as Kristen Wiig and made a name for himself in both short films and commercials. Todd's screenwriting has garnered significant recognition, including being named a finalist in the 2024 Austin Film and Screenwriting Festival and winning Best Unproduced Script at the Toronto Film and Script Awards. His screenplays have also been selected as finalists in renowned competitions such as WorldFest-Houston and BlueCat, and he was named Best First-Time Screenwriter at the Los Angeles Film Awards.

Beyond filmmaking, Todd is co-owner and CEO of Sweet Homes Vacation Getaways, a successful Oregon-based vacation rental company he founded in 2008 with his partner, Kate. Their innovative approach to property management has resulted in remarkable success, with Sweet Homes representing a portfolio of sought-after beach homes along the scenic Oregon coast. Todd's deep family connection to Yachats, Oregon, and his background in photography, directing, and business have helped build the thriving Sweet Homes organization.

In addition to Sweet Homes, Todd and Kate have investments in residential and commercial real estate. Most recently they built and opened The Louie Boutique Motel, an upscale, deco modern-themed boutique motel located in the historic Nye Beach district of Newport, Oregon. Todd and Kate reside in Las Vegas where Kate is a sociology professor and the senior vice provost at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. They split their time between Las Vegas and Oregon, where they also have their Yachats beach house. Their son, Jonah, is a proud student at the University of Oregon (Go Ducks!). Their commitment to the community, support for their team, and dedication to outstanding service are reflected in both their professional endeavors and their personal lives.

Panelist: Amy White



Amy White is a graduate of the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music. She worked for over fifteen years in the Denver area as a music educator, director, and performer. In 2017, she moved to the central Oregon Coast to follow a dream of beach life and beer to establish and co-own Beachcrest Brewing Company in Gleneden Beach.

At Beachcrest, Amy wears many hats, including staffing, HR, sales, promotions, marketing, managing, and finance. The mission of Beachcrest Brewing, which Amy oversees, is to create a hub for the coastal community to celebrate life's moments, both big and small.

Amy continues her passion for live music by curating Beachcrest's thriving music program, which gives a home for area and traveling musicians to share their craft. Beachcrest's community focus is also directed toward local philanthropy, regularly hosting fundraisers for local nonprofit entities with an emphasis on youth programs and the arts.

Presentation: Little Whale Cove + Sir Francis Drake



Dave Price is a vice president at Oregon Coast Community College, where he's worked for more than a decade. A Lincoln County resident for nearly 30 years, he's an entrepreneur who, along with his wife, Niki, launched a new business on the coast that will celebrate its 20th year this May. Price first met the English historian Bob Ward in 1997 and has been passionate about the true history of Sir Francis Drake's exploration of North America ever since. He is at his happiest boogie-boarding at Nelscott or Otter Rock, washing a car in a sunny driveway, or watching dark Scandinavian crime dramas with Niki and their coonhound, Merkel.