

**Guest  
Speakers**

**Higher  
Education  
Coordinating  
Commission,  
(HECC)**



**Benn Cannon, Executive Director, Higher Educating Coordinating Commission**

A former teacher, state representative and education policy advisor to Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber, Cannon grew up in Portland. He earned his BA from Washington University, St. Louis, and attended Oxford University, England, on a Rhodes Scholarship, earning graduate degrees in comparative and international education and philosophy, politics, and economics. From 2003 to 2011, he taught humanities to middle school students at the Arbor School of Arts and Education. Elected three times to the Oregon House of Representatives (2006-2011), he chaired House committees with jurisdiction over environment, energy, and water policy, and served on committees related to health care and education. As Executive Director of Oregon’s Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Cannon oversees state funding allocations, policy-setting, and coordination for Oregon’s higher education system, including community colleges and public universities.



**Cheryl Myers, Chief of Staff, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC)**

The HECC oversees the critical segments of pathways to educational success from the point at which students complete their formal high school education and move forward to learning, training and mastering skills in postsecondary and career training programs. Ms. Myers oversees communications and outreach, legislative and policy relations, organization and cultural structure, staff development and operations for the HECC. Her background includes economic and organizational development, knowledge of Oregon business needs, and a history of assisting organizations to construct equitable cultures and embed collaborative practices. Cheryl previously served as the Director of Economic & Business Equity on the Governor’s cabinet and has two decades of private sector business ownership experience. A lifelong Oregonian, she is deeply committed to community; she contributed eight years as an elected school board member for Oregon’s fifth largest school district and serves on numerous local and national nonprofit boards.



**Patrick Crane, Director, Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s Office of Research and Data**

Patrick Crane is the Director of the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s (HECC) Office of Research and Data. Dr. Crane oversees the collection of data from the state’s public universities and community colleges and provides research and analysis in support of the state’s 40-40-20 educational attainment goal. Prior to joining the HECC, Patrick worked as the Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives for the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and as Education Policy Advisor to Governor Manchin. He holds a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Georgia, an M.Phil. in higher education from the University of Oslo, and a B.A. in anthropology from Wesleyan University.

**Teresa Alonso Leon, High School Equivalency & GED Administrator, Office of Community**



**Colleges and Workforce Development**

Teresa Alonso Leon was born in Michoacán, Mexico. She earned her Master’s Degree in Public Administration at Portland State University and her B.A. at Western Oregon University. Teresa currently works for the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development as the High School Equivalency & State GED Administrator. She is a member of the Woodburn City Council – only the third Latino to hold this position. Teresa has worked in education and nonprofit work for over 18 years and continues her efforts in motivating and inspiring students to go to college or postsecondary educational opportunity past high school or GED. Teresa’s personal mission is to continue her work in areas where she can make a difference with social justice and education efforts. Teresa has been recognized by the Portland Business Journal, (40 under 40 up and coming leaders), New Leadership Oregon, and Portland Community College. Teresa has also completed several local and national leadership training programs such as the National Community College Hispanic Council Fellows program, the National Hispana Leadership Institute, Harvard’s Executive Leadership Program and the Leadership Program through the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government Institute for Nonprofit Management in Portland Oregon.



**Bob Brew, Executive Director of the Oregon Student Access Commission**

Bob Brew was born in Medford and grew up in Springfield. He graduated from Springfield High School and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Miami University, a Master’s in Business Administration from Portland State University, and his post-graduate Certificate in Public Management from Willamette University. Bob is the Executive Director of the Oregon Student Access Commission, where he helps students discover and finance their education beyond high school. He has been the Director of the Office of Student Access Commission since 2012. For the three years prior to that, he was the Budget and Accounting Manager for Oregon Secretary of State Kate Brown. His earlier career includes more than 20 years in local government finance and budget experience.

**Guest  
Speakers**

**Chief  
Education  
Office**



**Lindsey Capps, Chief Education Officer and Education Policy Advisor to Governor Kate Brown, Chief Education Office**

Lindsey Capps is Acting Chief Education Officer and Education Policy Advisor to Governor Kate Brown. Lindsey has worked with education and community leaders across Oregon, and has a track record of being a bridge builder. Lindsey has effectively developed strategic partnerships and enacted innovative policy solutions to improve student learning. Prior to serving Governor Brown, Lindsey was deputy to Chief Education Officer Nancy Golden. Prior to his recent leadership roles, Lindsey was instrumental in the creation of the Center for Great Public Schools, a hub for education policy, practice and research within the Oregon Education Association. He served as Chair of the statewide Coalition for Quality Teaching and Learning, and was an executive committee member of the Oregon Leadership Network, an initiative of Education Northwest to improve educational equity in Oregon’s public schools.



**Peter Tromba, Research and Policy Director, Chief Education Office**

Peter Tromba has taught reading PK-12, science, math and computer science

in high school, and data-based educational improvement at the post-secondary level. He has been a middle and high school principal for 12 years and a central office administrator in three school districts. He has served on the Teacher's Standards and Practices Commission and on the Quality Education Commission in Oregon. His school-based leadership work has had equity at its center and he has led systemic change to close opportunity gaps for students. Peter was appointed to the Chief Education Office (CEdO) on a temporary basis to author a business case to the state legislature for the creation of a state longitudinal data system for the birth to college & career system. In March 2014 he was appointed permanently to the CEdO as the Policy and Research Director.



**Dawne R. Huckaby, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Learning, Oregon Department of Education**

Dawne has been a life-long educator with 28 years in the profession. She began her career as a business education teacher in Colorado and has been in Oregon since 1999 working at the state, ESD, and local school district levels. For the past six years she has been the Director of Teaching & Learning for Roseburg Public Schools, coordinating efforts such as the implementation of Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessments, federal programs, early learning, district-level continuous improvement plans, and the revision of teacher and administrator evaluation systems

**Oregon  
Department  
of Education**

**Guest  
Speakers**

**GED Testing  
Service**



**Randy Trask, President and CEO, GED Testing Service**

Randy is president and chief executive officer of GED Testing Service®, the creator of the GED® test. Since its inception in 1942, more than 20 million adults-in the US, Canada and internationally-to achieve high school equivalency viable pathways to careers and post-secondary education.

Randy has been part of the testing industry for nearly three decades in a variety of technical, operational, and executive positions. From this vantage point, he has seen firsthand the power of education: working with programs that have launched access for millions of adults to opportunities through professional certification and licensing programs.

Randy understands and applauds the vital role that adult educators and adult education has in partnership with GED Testing Service to serve learners. Randy’s commitment to adult learners and those who help them is unwavering: He believes that the GED® program can transform the trajectory of learners’ lives in both the short and longer term. The success of 40 million individuals and their families depends on our working together to address the very real and pressing issues adult learners and adult education faces.

In addition to his work in adult education, Randy serves on the GED Testing Service® Board of Directors, and is currently board chair for the Chicago-based Creating IT Futures Foundation, an organization committed to helping individuals begin their careers in the information technology segment. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Regis College and resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota with his wife Sarah.



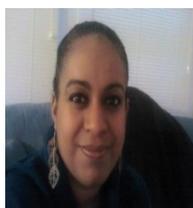
**Scott Salesses, Relationship Manager, GED Testing Service**

Scott Salesses is a State Relationship Manager with GED Testing Service. He joined GED Testing Service in August of 2011. From 2011 to 2013 Scott worked with GED Administrators™, examiners, and adult educators from a wide variety of states across the U.S. as their point person in their transition to offering the GED® test on computer as well as preparing for the launch of the 2014 GED® testing program. In 2014 He has continued to work closely with states to provide information and training on the 2014 GED® testing program as well as gather crucial feedback from examiners and adult educators in order to plan future system enhancements.

Prior to joining GED Testing Service Scott worked for Pearson Learning Solutions in Boston, MA where he held a variety of roles, including working directly with instructors at two and four year colleges to develop customized learning materials for their classes in order to help achieve the best learning outcomes for students.

**Guest  
Speakers**

**GED  
Graduates**



**Gudelia Contreras, GED Graduate**

Gudelia Contreras is an immigrant from Veracruz, Mexico, a second-language learner, migrant worker, volunteer and student. She has lived in the United States since 1990, is married, and has two children and one granddaughter. She earned her GED in 2012 and has since enrolled in two community colleges. She migrates between Clatsop and Chemeketa Community Colleges, depending on the location of her job. Gudelia was recently hired as the OHP Outreach and Enrollment Specialist at the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council. Her current goal is to earn a BA, and possibly a Master's, in Social Work. She is looking to transfer to OSU next year.



**Samantha Guadagno, GED Graduate**

Samantha Guadagno was born in Pueblo, Colorado and was raised in Salem, Oregon. She attended a traditional public high school until midway through her freshman year, when her narcolepsy became unmanageable and she was forced to seek out alternative forms of education. After completing a number of semesters of SK Online, she decided to get her GED through the Downtown Learning Center in Salem. Last spring, she graduated with honors and gave her own graduation speech at the ceremony. Currently, at Chemeketa Community College, she's working to fulfill an Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer Degree. She hopes to pursue a career in writing and editing. Without the help of the GED program and the faculty at her local learning center, she would not have been able to reach her goals or pursue her dreams,



**Chelsie Gray, GED Graduate**

Chelsie Gray is a 26 year old woman who lives with her boyfriend, daughter and dog in Keizer, Oregon. She grew up in the Northwest and taught dance to young children and adults at the YMCA in Salem, Oregon. Chelsie also worked as a flagger in the Portland area. She has a two year old daughter who is an inspiration in her life to further her education. Chelsie recently went back to obtain her GED during the winter of 2015! She currently attends Chemeketa Community College where she is pursuing her AAOT degree. She plans to transfer to OSU to build a strong science background and then apply to the National College of Natural Medicine in Portland, Oregon.



**Fabiola Regla Ramos, GED Graduate**

Fabiola Regla Ramos was born and raised in Comala, Colima Mexico. She was brought to the United States at the age of 14. She obtained her GED and CNA at Chemeketa Community College in 9 months. I had a wonderful experience and felt like I was a part of something big for the first time. She is currently working on her Bachelor of Science, planning to graduate school in the spring of 2016.

**Vanessa Huddleston, GED Graduate**



# Second Annual GED® Summit

## Creating Promise, Designing Success

### Guest Speaker Biographies



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	<p>Vanessa Huddleston earned her GED in June of 2015. Post her GED certificate, Vanessa has been gainfully employed. She is a hard worker and has always been willing and able to face new situations and environments with enthusiasm and determination.</p>
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