Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Conference
February 12 & 13, 2020 at the Oregon Garden in Silverton

This was a two day event with speakers, workshops, resource sharing, and networking opportunities to support members of Oregon’s farm to school and school garden community in their work to provide farm and garden-based education and incorporate healthy, local food into school meals for students grades PreK-12.

Nearly 400 people attended the event, on one or both days. Attendees spanned a wide range of experience and perspectives, with participants from all parts of the state. They included educators, farmers and other food producers, food service staff, school administrators, community volunteers, non-profit and university partners, state and federal agency staff, and others.
**Wednesday’s program was focused on farm- and garden-based education.**
The Keynote was provided by Jameese Kwele, Ecotrust’s Director of Food Equity. She addressed advancing equity through farm to school education. Twenty-eight engaging workshops covered topics including curriculum resources, inclusion and serving diverse populations, models for successful indoor and outdoor education programs, community engagement, evaluation, and fundraising for attendees working with students preK-12.

**Thursday's program was focused on incorporating healthy local food into school meals.**
The keynote panel focused on celebrating how far we’ve come together and the future of our work, was presented by Michelle Markesteyn, Chief Organization Optimist with Rootopia; Jaime Arrendondo, Executive Director of Capaces Leadership Institute; and Henry Ratcliff, 5th grade school garden leader. Fifteen workshops on Thursday covered best practices for incorporating local food into school meals for schools and producers, including getting started, connecting school gardens to the cafeterias, farm to preschool models, and promotional resources.
There were opportunities for structured and informal networking on both days, which was a highlight for many participants. Lunch on both days included foods grown or raised in Oregon. The Oregon Garden provided the perfect venue for this event.

**Of attendees responding to our evaluation survey:**
- 93% increased their knowledge about farm to school & school gardens,
- 96% increased their awareness of resources to help their work,
- 98% increased their network of peers working in this area,
- 95% increased their potential for collaborations that will enhance their work, and
- 98% increased their enthusiasm to continue working in the area of farm to school and school gardens

97% of attendees indicated they would recommend the Conference to a colleague.

**Feedback from participants:**

Thank you so much for providing this opportunity. It is incredibly meaningful for educators, nutrition service providers, school leaders and students and families across the state. I am always so inspired that so much good work is happening across the state of Oregon in the field of Farm to School. Thank you for helping us all improve, network and offer the best we can to our students.

I love attending this conference! It is a highlight of my year.

Learned a lot and made contacts with vendors and other school directors.

Thank you for the opportunity to see all the great work being done throughout Oregon. Very inspiring!

I feel much better informed and equipped to serve as a garden coordinator for public schools as a result of offerings I chose at this conference.

Thank you for such an inspiring and important time to connect with others and reflect on my own practices!

The Conference was amazing and something I was needing to get re-energized around farm to school.

This was the best conference I have ever attended and I have been to a lot. Thanks for your time and dedication to this work!

Thanks for all the hard work putting this event together. It's an important and valuable time for people in this field.
Thank you sponsors!

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The Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Conference is a project of the Oregon Farm to School and School Garden Network

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