

Keynote Session Overview

PNCWA 2021 Annual Conference

Session: PNCWA2021 Opening Session

Date: Monday, September 13

Time: 8:30- 10:00 AM

Agenda

8:30 – Opening Remarks, Haley Falconer, PNCWA President

8:35 – Welcome to Boise, Dr. Dan Prinzing, Executive Director of the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights

8:55 – Keynote Speaker, Tai Simpson, Organizer for the Indigenous Idaho Alliance

9:40 – Call to action and Scholarship Announcement, Haley Falconer, PNCWA President

9:50 – Conference Announcements, Emily O’Morrow and Allison Hornak, PNCWA2021 Conference Chair and PNCWA2021 Technical Program Chair

10:00 – Adjourn

Ripples of Change: Creating our Future

PNCWA 2021 is built on the conference theme, Ripples of Change: Creating our Future. This theme is a message of empowered optimism as clean water professionals continue to face the challenges spurred in 2020, dedicated to creating the future of the clean water industry. While still confronted with overwhelming national and global challenges, for many of which the Pacific Northwest region has been a focal point throughout the last year, the PNCWA 2021 Opening Session will ask members to confront how the old ‘normal’ is in part what caused the divisions and isolation of the last year. Operating at status quo is no longer what our industry should strive to return to, but rather, getting back to ‘better than normal’ is imperative.

Dr. Dan Prinzing, Executive Director of the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights will kick off this message by welcoming PNCWA members to Boise. The Wassmuth Center for Human Rights was founded for the purpose of constructing a memorial to human rights in Idaho’s capital city. That vision became a reality when the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial was dedicated to the public in 2002. The site is the only memorial to Anne Frank in the United States, is one of the few places in the world in which the full text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is on public display, and is recognized as an international Site of Conscience.

On December 8, 2020 the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial was vandalized with swastikas. Looking to the future, Dr. Prinzing will share the unifying vision of an inclusive society where Idahoans take responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights; where everyone is valued and treated with equal dignity and respect; and where everyone’s human rights are a lived reality.

Tai Simpson, Organizer for the Indigenous Idaho Alliance will elaborate on this message as PNCWA's keynote speaker. Simpson will share how indigenous "old ways" need to come back in style as we move forward. PNCWA was built on The old ways are principles on which many indigenous communities build their social and political narratives. As an antiracism activist and community leader, she uses contemporary and traditional Indigenous storytelling to depict the lens of "old ways" and how it is used to protect the sacred, build strength in the community, and keep nature in balance. Session attendees will learn about the importance of water in indigenous cultures. The opening session will motivate attendees to not only to individually gain the maximum benefit from the conference but to also be inspired to better provide the people in our region with a basic human right: access to clean water and sanitation.

Haley Falconer, PNCWA President will close out the session by presenting the ways PNCWA and local stormwater and wastewater agencies have been creating ripples of change in 2021, as well as highlighting some of the efforts that PNCWA is taking to tackle our industry's workforce challenges, such as through the INFLOW program and by providing scholarships, concluding with a call to action.

Opening Session Speaker Bios:

Dr. Dan Prinzing, Executive Director of the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights

Dr. Dan Prinzing is the executive director of the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, builder and home of the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial. The Center's mission is "to promote respect for human dignity and diversity through education and to foster individual responsibility to work for peace and justice." As a career educator, his work has taken him from the classroom to state government to countries around the globe as a teacher, coordinator and trainer in human rights education. Dr. Prinzing holds a B.A. in History Secondary Education, an MA in Curriculum and Instruction, an MA in History and Government, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership.

Tai Simpson, Organizer for the Indigenous Idaho Alliance

"The Storyteller" is Tai Simpson's name in the Indigenous language of the Nimiipuu nation (Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho). As a direct descendant of Chief Redheart, Tai takes great pride in serving her community as an organizer, activist, and advocate. Tai catalyzed her racial and social justice activism while studying Sociology and Political Philosophy & Public Law at Boise State University. Her experience at Boise State prepared her for the work she does in the community today.

She speaks with authentic conviction on issues afflicting marginalized communities including race, Missing & Murdered Indigenous women, and the intersections of oppression facing the United States. Her appearances and interviews can be heard or read on Boise State Public Radio, TEDxBoise, and several news outlets. As an antiracism activist and community leader, she uses contemporary and traditional Indigenous storytelling to depict the lens of "old ways" and how they protect the sacred,

builds strength in the community, and keeps nature in balance; these principles support her work to champion radical inclusion, equity, and liberation.

Haley Falconer, PNCWA President

Haley Falconer is the Environmental Division Senior Manager for the City of Boise. In this role, Haley is responsible for the implementation of the city's long term strategic plan for water renewal, managing regulations and water quality, and overseeing an innovative materials management program. When not working, Haley enjoys exploring Idaho with her spouse, two young children, and rambunctious, yet snuggly, rescue pup. She holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from North Dakota State University and a M.S. in Environmental Engineering from Washington State University.

About WEF and PNCWA

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 35,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world, including the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association (PNCWA). Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, our mission is to connect water professionals; enrich the expertise of water professionals; increase the awareness of the impact and value of water; and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit www.wef.org.