

Diversity Conference





Cliff Jones

Cliff Jones has strong ties to the nonprofit community in Oregon, having worked as a senior consultant with NAO since 1992. He is a sought-after trainer, and is recognized for his work in civic engagement initiatives and cross-cultural effectiveness. Prior to joining NAO, Cliff was an experienced community organizer. He has worked as a legal advocate, policy analyst, and HIV/AIDS prevention advocate.

Cliff's consulting focus areas include advancing equity and inclusion and cross-cultural effectiveness. He is a co-founder of Tools for Diversity. Cliff considers his greatest contributions to be working with community leaders to build alliances across differences and witnessing the transformative and courageous work people can accomplish together when they are willing to explore difficult issues.



Maria Elena Castro

Maria Elena Castro has 15 years of professional experience working in healthcare and education in the non-profit sector. She is actively involved in community health initiatives. Prior to joining the Oregon Health Authority's Office of Equity and Inclusion as the Rural and Migrant Health Coordinator, Maria was an Education Consultant with the Oregon Community Health Information Network (OCHIN).

Maria served as the Community Outreach Manager for the Gorge Service Area Providence Health Systems Oregon Region, where she was responsible for creating new services and projects to support patient-centered approaches. A key role included developing and managing Providence Hood River's Language Access Services Department and their Diversity and Inclusion Program, designing a suite of health care training best practices to shape the awareness of diversity and inclusion at all levels, and managing grant-funded programs, conducting community based research, and bridging community needs with provider practices.

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