

***Community Vitality and Natural Hazards:
Assets, Opportunities, and Resilience in Lane County***

Speaker Bios

Greg Rikhoff, Lane County's Chief Operations Officer, has been employed with Lane County since September 2015. He served as assistant vice president, chief of staff, and director of community relations during his time with the University of Oregon and prior to that spent 20 years in Eugene city government. He has been a mediator and mediation trainer for the last 30 years. Mr. Rikhoff received a B.A. in English at Kenyon College.

Josh Bruce is the Director of the Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience, housed in the UO's Institute for Policy Research and Engagement. His areas of expertise include natural-hazard mitigation, recovery planning projects, and the identification, development and use of integrated, multi-objective approaches to achieve community resilience.

Patence Winningham-Melcher is Lane County's Emergency Manager. For 13 years, she served in the City of Eugene's Emergency Management Program, working as a planning section chief and deputy emergency operations center manager. As a McKenzie River native, Ms. Winningham-Melcher has a keen understanding of the challenges that rural communities and residents face regarding emergency preparedness.

Rodney Price is Eugene Water and Electric Board's Chief Operating Officer. In his current role, he is helping EWEB focus on increasing the resiliency of its water and electric delivery systems while maintaining high reliability. Mr. Price has over 30 years of electric utility experience in areas that include engineering, project management, consulting and management. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Oregon and Washington and earned Bachelor and Master of Science Degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Idaho.

Michael Harman has worked for nearly 30 years supporting public safety operations in local government. He is currently the System Manager for the Lane Radio Interoperability Group (LRIG), a consortium of public sector radio users supporting operations across Lane County.

Dr. Lucy Jones, known by national media outlets as "the Earthquake Lady," is in residence at the UO for four weeks this fall as the Wayne Morse Chair for Law and Politics. A Research Associate at the Seismological Laboratory of Caltech since 1984, Dr. Jones completed 33 years of federal service with the US Geological Survey. Most recently, she was the USGS Science Advisor for Risk Reduction. In that role, she developed America's first major earthquake drill, the Great ShakeOut, which has expanded to encompass more than 55 million participants around the world. Dr. Jones also led USGS's creation of a national science strategy to promote the science that will better prepare the nation for future natural hazards. She is the founder of the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society, with a mission to foster the understanding and application of scientific information in the creation of more resilient communities. Working with both the public and private sectors, Dr. Jones seeks to increase communities' ability to adapt and be resilient to the dynamic changes of the world around them. The aim is to understand and communicate where the greatest vulnerabilities lie and what actions can be taken to reduce the risk that are the most cost-effective. She has been one of the prominent public voices for earthquake resilience, conducting thousands of interviews, appearing on most major news networks, as well as NPR, PBS, and numerous TV specials about earthquakes and disasters.