

# Growing Food and Community During the Pandemic

Tuesday, September 21

2:00 – 3:00 PST

[Zoom Webinar](#)



During the COVID-19 pandemic, college students in the U.S. faced a sudden decrease in food security, which exposed many underlying issues of community food sovereignty. To address these issues, higher education institutions in the greater Portland region created a variety of innovative solutions. Introduced by Serena Dressel, Portland State University Student Sustainability Center's Interim Coordinator and Vice President of RCE Greater Portland, and led by AmeriCorps Food Systems Outreach Coordinator Jeanell Innerarity, this webinar will highlight the creative thought processes and practical implementation tactics used by RCE Greater Portland's College Network and Portland Community College. Jeanell and her supervisor, Dr. Peter Ritson, saw a deep need for community connection and social support while operating remotely, so they implemented a series of programs designed to:

- increase long-term community food sovereignty
- educate students about the nature of the food system
- weave equity and diversity education seamlessly into hands-on experience
- build community remotely
- teach students how to grow their own food on a tight budget with limited access to space
- engage faculty and staff

These efforts resulted in a high involvement in food systems conversations across the region and an increase in student leadership and empowerment.

Webinar participants will leave with a broader sense of how to engage participants in a remote environment around food systems, equity and diversity, and community building and models that can be replicated in their own institutions and communities.

Spanish translation will be available. Register for Zoom Webinar Here:

<https://portlandcc.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0vd-ypqTstGNc-e9T3KWo4rC-YIyxAE7OA>



Jeanell Innerarity, MA, QMHP-C, LMT, THAS holds a BA in Environmental Studies with a focus on sustainable agriculture, an MA in Process Oriented Facilitation and Conflict Studies, and is a Therapeutic Horticulture Activity Specialist. She spent the 2020-21 school year serving with Portland Community College as the AmeriCorps Food Systems Outreach Coordinator with the Sylvania Campus Environmental Center. She is certified in Permaculture and Ecovillage Design and has completed Seed School for Farmers and Seed School Teacher Training with the Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance. Jeanell is an avid gardener, a volunteer with the Portland Audubon Society's Backyard Habitat program, and an advocate for #foodnotlawns. She has lived and worked on small farms and ecovillages around the world, taught yoga and practiced massage for 10 years, and, in 2018, founded The EcoSpiritual Education Center, LLC through which she offers process-oriented counseling and coaching alongside sustainability education. She is currently involved in a love affair with fava beans.



Serena Dressel is the Portland State University (PSU) Student Sustainability Center's Interim Coordinator and former Board President of the Greater Portland Sustainability Education Network (GPSEN). Serena is pursuing her Master's in Public Administration with a specialization in Global Leadership and Management. Serena supports GPSEN's Portland Youth Climate Collective.