

Local residents are invited to get involved in public policy issues by attending the Third Annual Washington County Citizen Action Summit, "Tools for Change", at Pacific University on Saturday, April 6.

A day-long series of discussions, workshops and action planning sessions will help both new and experienced activists share information and strategies to shape public policy within their local communities, the region and statewide.

The summit is an offering of Washington County Citizen Action Network (WC CAN) and Pacific University's Tom McCall Center for Policy Innovation, and takes place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Marsh Hall on the university's Forest Grove Campus (2043 College Way).

Robert Liberty, Director of Portland State University's Urban Sustainability Accelerator Program, will give opening remarks.

The morning sessions will consist of "how-to" workshops in which attendees can select from a number of topics to learn about ways to overcome common challenges of grassroots organizing to meet community needs.

Topics range from how the land use process works, to grassroots lobbying and politics, engaging Latino communities, community activism, land preservation and more.

Discussions and workshops will be led by local leaders representing several organizations, including the Washington County Planning Commission, 1000 Friends of Oregon, Sensible Transportation Options for People, Friends of Family Farmers, Tualatin Riverkeepers, and Helvetia Community Association.

Students from Pacific, PSU and Portland Community College will help lead a session on engaging young people in community activism.

Jim Moore, director of the McCall Center, will facilitate a session on county and local government lobbying that will include a panel consisting of Tualatin City Councilor Joelle Davis, citizen activist Martha Moyer, and others.

Oregon Representative Ben Unger (D-29) and Pacific Professor Emeritus Russ Dondero will lead a workshop on grassroots lobbying at the state level.

Kristin Smock, consultant to the Coalition of a Livable Future and the PSU School for Urban Studies, will give the day's keynote presentation during lunch. "A Washington County Preview of Regional Equity Atlas 2.0, Mapping to identify and address community needs" will include a demonstration, question and answer session and further discussion.

The afternoon features action planning work groups.

Attendees can choose from a number of priorities, including: influencing the 2014 elections, accessing legal resources; protecting farm, forest and natural resources, lobbying state issues strategically, opening up processes in county and city governments or engaging under-empowered communities.

The groups will reconvene as one assembly to share their work. A reception featuring light refreshments will conclude the day.

For more information, including the complete schedule and online registration, visit wc-can.org.