



# WSU EXTENSION Clark County

Extending Knowledge. Changing Lives



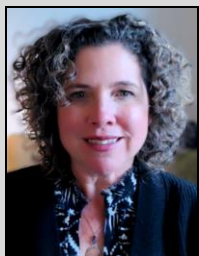
## Spring 2026 QUARTERLY REPORT

Serving Clark County for more than 100 years

At **Washington State University Clark County Extension**, we engage people, organizations, and communities to advance knowledge, economic well-being and quality of life by fostering inquiry, learning and the application of research.

### Our Commitment:

- **Innovate:** Faculty and staff create and evaluate educational programs rooted in research and real-world experiences.
- **Collaborate:** Hundreds of volunteers and community partners amplify our efforts.
- **Educate:** Access resources from Washington State University and the National Land Grant University Extension System.
- **Support:** Offering both virtual and in-person education, we deliver impactful programs to Clark County residents.
- **Get Involved:** This quarter, our programs reached approximately **5912** community members. For more information, contact us via email, phone, or visit our website and social media. Stay safe and informed!



Kristine Perry  
Interim Director  
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564-397-5718





## Spring 2026 QUARTERLY REPORT

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### BY THE NUMBERS



Total Reach  
Spring Quarter  
2026: 2196

- 186 Youth Participated in Club Programs, 32 Mentors
- 6 Outreach Event 450 Participants,
- Restorative Community Service, 18 Youth, 5 Adult Mentors
- SET Project 1542 Youth Participants, 54 Adult Mentors



[Click Here to Learn More](#)



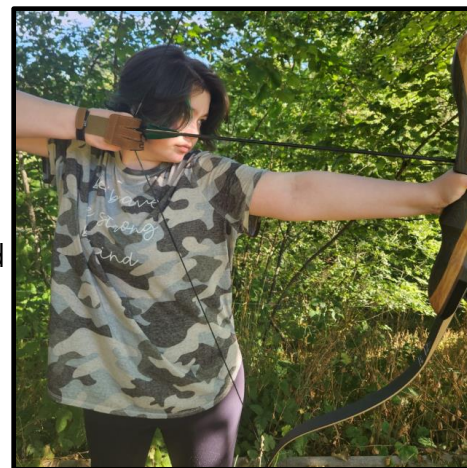
## 4-H Youth Development

### "To Make the Best Better"

The mission of the 4-H Youth Development Program is to help young people grow into responsible, contributing citizens. To reach this goal, 4-H has developed educational materials that emphasize development of life skills in young people through fun, hands-on projects.

### Blending Leadership, Art and Shooting Sports

Annika has participated in 4-H Shooting Sports for the last three years in both Air Rifle and Archery (recurve bow). She is a senior member and this year she began serving as a Junior Leader for her club "Slightly Off Target" in Vancouver, Washington. She also enjoys art and earned a blue ribbon at the State Fair last year with her entry in the Shooting Sports category. She found her art was a way to start conversations about 4-H Shooting Sports and hopes to continue with her art. Her goal as Ambassador is to promote 4-H Shooting Sports for present and future generations through safety and education. Annika looks forward to representing her club, community, and the State of Washington as Shooting Sports Ambassador.



*Annika, 4-H youth presents their Shooting Sports project.*

**Missy McElprang**

4-H Youth Development  
Specialist, Faculty  
[missy.cummins@wsu.edu](mailto:missy.cummins@wsu.edu)



**4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.**



# 4-H Youth Development

**"To Make the Best Better"**

## Clark County 4-H Dog Project Spotlight

Jolin Fong, an intermediate 4-H member from Clark County, is involved in multiple clubs spanning dog training, shooting sports, photography, and cavies. She has earned top awards in crochet at county and state fairs. In the 4-H Dog Project, she and her dog Princess earned High Combined at the Washington State Fair and Champion in Agility. With her young dog Bo, she has earned numerous Best Junior and Reserve Best Junior titles in AKC competitions, qualifying for the AKC National Championship, Westminster, and the elite AKC Master Class, where she has also earned scholarship funds.

Beyond dog projects, Jolin is a four-year participant in 4-H Shooting Sports, earning Champion honors in Air Rifle and Compound Archery at the county fair, Reserve Champion at the State Fair, and High Combined locally. She also shows American and American Satin covies, earning top ribbons. Through 4-H, she continues to gain leadership, responsibility, and technical skills while traveling and representing Clark County at major competitions regionally and nationally.



*Jolin and her dog Bo with 4-H Ribbon*

## Clark County 4-H Member Excels at National Shooting Sports Competition

Clark County 4-H member Koji represented Washington State with distinction at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Competition, serving as both a state ambassador and a competitor in the Muzzleloading Division. Among 77 competitors from across the country, Koji earned an impressive third-place finish in the Silhouettes event, demonstrating exceptional skill, dedication, and sportsmanship. Beyond the competition, the event provided valuable opportunities to build connections with youth from other states, represent Washington 4-H on a national stage and create lasting memories through shared experiences and teamwork.



*Koji 4-H youth participates in a Shooting Sports muzzleloader competition.*

*4 H Shooting Sports Youth and Coaches at National Competition*





## Spring 2026 QUARTERLY REPORT

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Total Reach  
Fall Quarter  
2026: 84

- 43 Outreach Events (Market Tours), 84 Participants



## Health Wellness and Nutrition

### Strengthening Food Access Through Farmers Market Partnership

WSU Extension continues its partnership with the Vancouver Farmers Market (VFM) to expand access to fresh, locally grown food for Clark County residents. Despite the loss of SNAP-Ed funding, Extension continues working with the VFM to offer this important food access and nutrition education program. Guided tours and the Farmers Market Ambassador program help participants feel confident using SNAP and SNAP Market Match benefits while connecting them with local vendors and seasonal produce.



Farmers Market Ambassadors,  
Denise and Irene

During the first month of tours, the program served 84 participants, many from the Russian speaking community, showing strong engagement with underserved populations. Ambassadors help reduce language and cultural barriers and increase awareness of available nutrition incentives. As families face rising food costs and reduced purchasing power, this partnership remains an essential strategy for improving equitable access to healthy, local foods and supporting the long-term vitality of Clark County's food



Russian Translated  
SNAP Match flyer

**Angela Shields**  
Program Coordinator  
Angela.shields@wsu.edu



**Promote health where people live,  
learn, work and play.**



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## Spring 2026 QUARTERLY REPORT

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Total Reach  
Spring Quarter  
2026: 183

- 8 Class series, 155 Participants
- 2 Outreach Event, 28 Participants



[English Recipes](#)  
[Recetas en español](#)



[@wsuclarkefnep](#)



## EFNEP Program

### Expanded Food and Nutrition Education

The Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) is a federal nutrition program for low-income parents and youth that focuses on healthy eating, food safety, physical activity, and saving money on groceries. Classes are currently offered online and in-person.

### Growing Strong Minds and Healthy Bodies



Just before heading off for summer break, this class capped the year with an energetic EFNEP nutrition session, learning fun, practical ways to stay active and make healthy choices all summer.

**Sara Peitzmeier**  
EFNEP Manager  
[sara.peitzmeier@wsu.edu](mailto:sara.peitzmeier@wsu.edu)



Assisting limited resource families in acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and changed behavior necessary to maintain nutritionally sound diets.



# EFNEP Program

Expanded Food and Nutrition Education

In partnership with:



## Impact Story–

### Building Confidence in the Kitchen: One Father's Journey to Healthier Family Meals

*"I never thought I'd be able to cook healthy meals for my boys, but now I'm making dinner almost every night and packing their lunches. I feel like I'm finally giving them the kind of meals they deserve."* – EFNEP Participant

One EFNEP participant was raising three children while facing significant life challenges. After losing his partner in a tragic accident, he found himself raising three teenage boys alone while living in a family shelter. Having spent much of his own life experiencing homelessness, he had never learned to cook beyond heating prepared foods. When one of his sons was diagnosed with diabetes, he became determined to provide healthier meals for his family and enrolled in EFNEP classes offered at the shelter.

At the beginning of the program, he relied almost entirely on convenience foods and lacked confidence in the kitchen. Through EFNEP's hands-on lessons, he learned practical cooking techniques, meal planning strategies, and ways to prepare nutritious meals on a limited budget. With encouragement from classmates and his instructor, he became increasingly comfortable cooking from scratch and trying new recipes.

By the end of the nine-week series, he was preparing most of his family's meals at home and regularly packing lunches for his children. He also began involving his sons in grocery shopping and meal preparation, helping them build healthy habits together. He shared that replacing many processed foods with home-cooked meals filled with fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins has improved his confidence as a parent and his family's overall eating habits. This participant's experience demonstrates how EFNEP equips families with practical skills, confidence, and knowledge that support lasting improvements in nutrition, food security, and overall well-being.



[Recetas en español](#)

[English Recipes](#)





## Spring 2026 QUARTERLY REPORT

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Total Reach  
Spring Quarter  
2026: 1770

- 7018 Master Gardeners Volunteer Hours
- 32 Workshops, 478 Participants
- 18 Outreach Events, 1160 Participants
- 50 Answer Clinic Workshops, 132 Participant Contacts
- 3700 Social Media Likes



## Master Gardener Program

### Community Horticulture and Natural Resource Stewardship

The Master Gardener program trains volunteers through over 60 hours of university-led education in horticulture and environmental stewardship. Volunteers provide at least 50 hours of service to become certified. Veteran Master Gardeners continue with at least 35 hours of service annually.

### Celebrating Spring at the Master Gardener Sale

The annual Mother's Day Plant Sale, held on May 8, 9 and 10 attracted hundreds of shoppers eager to purchase plants grown by Master Gardeners. A wide selection of vegetables including 56 varieties of tomatoes, as well as annual flowers, perennial shrubs, herbs and fruit were available at very competitive prices. It took hundreds of Master Gardeners to staff the event as parking attendants, gate monitors and plant re-stockers and to answer questions about the plants. A couple of months' rest and eager volunteers will be starting to think about next year's sale.



A packed greenhouse



Happy Plant Sale shoppers with not an inch of room to spare

**Erika Johnson**  
Master Gardener Coordinator  
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Click here to find out more about the  
Master Gardener Program  
in their monthly newsletter



[MGP Newsletter](#)



# Master Gardener Program

Community Horticulture and Natural Resource Stewardship

## Welcome to Washington!

WSU Extension Clark County Master Gardeners, in partnership with the Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County and WSDOT, installed the 2026 planting of the iconic "Welcome to Washington" highway garden on northbound Interstate 5.

This year, the seasonal landmark greets visitors with a vibrant, eye-catching apple design meticulously shaped within the geographic outline of Washington state. The brilliant display features 606 sunpatiens—chosen for their non-stop summer color and resilience in the sun.



Newly installed sunpatiens in the shape of an apple cheerily greet northbound travelers on I-5.



The planting crew

## Growing the Future

The Master Gardener program has partnered with the non-profit, iUrbanteen to offer a five-week summer experience at the 78<sup>th</sup> Street Heritage Farm. Seventeen middle and high school students are participating and have made two visits to date. Activities include starting seeds, planting transplants, studying soil, touring the property, learning about healthy snacks and more. The series will conclude with a service event on August 8 where the youth will volunteer in the fields with the Clark County Food Bank.



iUrbanteen youth learning about soil

**Master  
Gardener  
Program**

*It's in Your Nature!*

**Answer  
Clinic**

Tuesday and Wednesday • 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.  
Thursday and Friday • 10:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Call 564-397-5711  
OR

Email us your question at

[askamastergardener@clarkmg.org](mailto:askamastergardener@clarkmg.org)



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Total Reach  
Spring Quarter  
2026: 1100

- 2 Workshop, 36 Participants
- 8 Outreach Event, 75 Participants
- 25 Technical Assistance to Farmers
- 964 Educational Video Views
- 823 Social Media views



### SW WA Commercial Agriculture Program

#### Program Purview, Impact Potential:

Our program develops and delivers research and education relevant to an agricultural community of ~2500 commercial farms operating across 125K acres within Clark, Cowlitz, and Skamania Counties. Approximately 75% of these farms and acreages lie within Clark County; 53% of our soils are classified as agricultural, and our soil productivity ratings and density of farm businesses (3.14 farms/sq. mi.) are the highest in the state.

#### Strengthening Farmland Protection in Clark County

Our program continued to serve on the County's Agricultural Commission in Q2, and on the commission's Farmland Protection sub-committee. As part of the sub-committee's work towards developing a recommendation for a farmland protection strategy for the county, we met with representatives from Whatcom County's Conservation Easement Program, and Washington Farmland Trust to gather information on what types of farmland protection might be most suitable for Clark County.

**Justin O'Dea**  
Regional Agricultural  
Specialist Faculty  
[justin.odea@wsu.edu](mailto:justin.odea@wsu.edu)



The ANR program conducts locally relevant applied research in the fields of agriculture and natural resource sciences.



# SW WA Commercial Agriculture Program

## Building Local Expertise and Capacity in Shiitake Mushroom Cultivation

As part of our ongoing \$175K shiitake mushroom grant project, we hosted two of our annual shiitake production workshops at the Heritage Farm for farmers and others interested in starting a shiitake mushroom production enterprise. A total of 36 people attended from ~20 farms and/or potential mushroom producer startups.

We also received preliminary word from Western SARE that our \$350K proposal was going to be sent to USDA-NIFA as a proposal recommended for funding. In anticipation of potential research expansions from this grant and phasing out of some older shiitake research we made renovations to each of the four shiitake production sites at the Heritage Farm in Q2 for better space use efficiency and logistics.

**SPECIALTY CROP/  
AGROFORESTRY  
WORKSHOPS**

 WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



**Forest-grown  
shiitake mushroom  
production for  
diversified farms  
and startups**



**WHEN:**  
April 10th & 17th, 2026  
2:30-6:30 PM  
**WHERE:**  
1919 NE 78th St. Vancouver, WA  
**COST:**  
\$30 per farm/business  
**REGISTER:**  
April 10th: <https://tinyurl.com/shiitake41026>  
April 17th: <https://tinyurl.com/shiitake41726>

### Here What Farmers Had to Say...

"Thank you so much for offering this class. I had previously inoculated logs and learned from this class offering ways that I could have done it better. Lots of valuable information acquired that I will definitely utilize in the very near future. Thanks again!"

"...This was an excellent experience, very helpful and informative, thank you for offering this program!"

*"This was a brilliant program, and I hope it will continue."*



Participants for the Shiitake workshop

## Developing New Rose Stem Girdler Management Strategies

Following positive results from an experimental RSG management treatment we applied in 2025, we applied a new experimental treatment combination in 2026 to the Heritage Farm raspberry planting that built on the 2025 treatment. If successful the treatments should broaden the RSG management options for caneberry and ornamental rose growers, while also being uniquely pollinator-safe.



Read more about pests like the rose stem girdler and emerald ash borer  
<https://rdcu.be/dU06D>



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Total Reach  
Spring Quarter  
2026: 316

- 3 Outreach Event, 35 Participants
- 10 Workshops, 67 Participants
- 11 Technical Assistance for Rural Residents
- 201 Educational Video Views
- 2 Farms and Business Impacted; 432 Acres Impacted
- 31, 407 Social Media Views



**Terry Koper**

Small Acreage Coordinator  
terry.koper@wsu.edu



### Small Acreage Program

#### Land Stewardship Education and Economic Development

**The Small Acreage** program provides educational workshops and other outreach to county residents on animal, land and water stewardship, such as mud and manure management, fencing and pasture management, and other water quality topics unique to rural land. The Small Acreage Program works in partnership with Clark County Public Works Clean Water Program.

#### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Small Acreage Expo

This past May, the WSU Clark County Extension Small Acreage Program hosted its 19th Annual Small Acreage Expo at the historic 78th Street Heritage Farm in Vancouver, WA. Local land stewards, rural residents, and community members gathered for a full day of hands-on workshops and practical demonstrations.

"The Small Acreage Expo is all about providing practical, science-based information people can apply right away", noted Terry Koper, Small Acreage Program Coordinator.



Small Acreage Expo exhibitors the Clark County Farm Bureau

Supporting local land caretakers through education, marketing support, and statewide program implementation.

# Small Acreage Program

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Small Acreage Expo- Continued

Attendees customized their schedules with science-based sessions covering:

**Soil & Land Health:** Managing soil health and conservation planning.

**Livestock Care:** Pasture grazing and livestock management.

**Land & Water Management:** Septic system maintenance and responsible chemical use.

**Guided Farm Tour:** An educational 78<sup>th</sup> St. Heritage Farm tour led by WSU Master Gardeners. A special thank you to Clark County Public Works Clean Water and our community partners for making this event a success!

This event was made possible through the support of Clark County Public Works Clean Water and WSU Clark County Extension and numerous dedicated community partners, including Clark County Master Gardeners, Master Gardener Foundation, Columbia Concentrates, Clark Conservation District, Clark County Public Health, Department of Natural Resources, Handmade Gardens PDX, Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative, Farm Bureau, and Western Community Insurance. We want to thank everyone who attended, volunteered, or presented to help protect our local watersheds and rural lands!



Expo Participants



*Thanks for  
your support  
Expo  
Volunteers!*

### Participant feedback from Expo:

Practices I plan to change include: "how I handle goat manure and soil amendment(s)."

"Forest management, soil management, and resources were very helpful."

"It is a great event" "Great teachers"

"Much new information on many subjects"



**Participate in future events!**

Missed the expo? We host events all year. Get on the listserv to learn about upcoming programs

email **Terry Koper** at [terry.koper@wsu.edu](mailto:terry.koper@wsu.edu)



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Total Reach  
Spring Quarter  
2026: 263



### Community Gardens

#### Supporting Local Agriculture

The community garden provides a place for community members to grow food for themselves and their families. There are 88 plots, 20ft by 20ft each. It is the most diverse program here at Heritage Farm. We have families from Botswana, Korea, Thailand, Mexico and many of the Eastern European countries. This pesticide free, year-round community garden is highly sought after.

#### Heritage Farm Community Garden: Springing into Action!

Heritage Farm Community Garden continues to serve as a vibrant, pesticide-free space where community members grow food for themselves and their families. The garden includes 88 plots and supports a diverse group of gardeners from many countries, cultures, and backgrounds. With the arrival of spring and early summer, the garden became a hub of activity as gardeners planted vegetables, flowers, and herbs and worked to establish healthy, productive growing spaces.



Close-up of a bright pink poppy growing in a community garden plot.

**Phoebe Jud**

Coordinator

[Phoebe.jud@wsu.edu](mailto:Phoebe.jud@wsu.edu)



Are you interested in gardening but don't have room to do so at your home or apartment? The Heritage Farm Community Garden has a waitlist, Contact Phoebe for more info!



# Community Gardens



Community gardeners socializing in the shade during Community Garden Potluck.



Community gardeners giving tours of their plots to others who attended the Community Garden Potluck.

*"It is so wonderful to be able to gather everyone and get to know each other!*

*This is what the community garden is all about."* HF Community Gardener

– HF Community Gardener

Early Spring is a bustling time at the garden as gardeners prepare their plots by tilling, adding organic fertilizer, and making sure their irrigation is working properly!

In addition to gardening activities, Heritage Farm Community gardeners planned and hosted a Community Garden Potluck that was very well attended. The event provided an opportunity for gardeners to come together, share food, meet one another, share plants and seeds, and build relationships. The potluck strengthened the sense of community within the garden and highlighted the important role the space plays in connecting neighbors while supporting local food production. As the growing season continues, gardeners are already beginning to see the results of their hard work, and the garden remains a welcoming space for learning, collaboration, and community building. Phoebe is excited to see how the gardens continue to flourish throughout the summer months.



Garlic after being harvested by a community gardener.



4-H

AGRICULTURE  
PRODUCTIONCOMMUNITY & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

FAMILY &amp; HOME



FOOD &amp; NUTRITION

AGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCESAGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCESWSU FACULTY  
AND STAFF

## Partnerships, Collaborations and Cooperations



Clark County and Washington State University have a long-standing partnership in providing educational programs and research-based information to residents throughout the county. This partnership ensures that resources are committed from Federal allocations and University funds to keep important educational programs available in Clark County.

Bridgeview Community Center  
 Camas Farmers Market  
 CASEE Center  
 CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
 City of Camas  
 City of Vancouver  
 Clark Conservation District  
 Clark County Event Center  
 Clark County Environmental Health Food Safety Program  
 Clark County Fair  
 Clark County Farmers  
 Clark County Farm Forestry Association  
 Clark County Food Bank  
 Clark County Food System Council  
 Clark County Juvenile Justice  
 Clark County Public Works  
 Clark County Public Health  
 Clark County Composter Recycler Program  
 Clark County Saddle Club  
 Clark County Public Utilities  
 Community Garden Club of Camas Washougal  
 Connect Evergreen Substance Abuse Coalition  
 Core Home Fruit Services  
 Cowlitz Indian Tribe  
 DSHS (Dept of Health and Human Services)  
 Earth Gen  
 Edgewood Elementary School  
 Educational Service District 112

Evergreen School District/Family and Community Resource Centers  
 Fort Vancouver Regional Library  
 Fourth Plain Commons  
 Fourth Plain Forward  
 Free Clinic of SWWA  
 Friends of Heritage Farm Foundation  
 Hardy Plant Society of Oregon  
 Hazel Dell Elementary School  
 La Center Community Library  
 Latino Community Resource Group  
 Latinos Unidos Y Floreciendo  
 The League of United Latin American Citizens  
 Longview Garden Club  
 Lower Columbia Nature Network  
 Lower Columbia School Gardens  
 Luthern Community Services  
 Marshall Elementary School  
 Master Gardener Foundation of Clark County  
 Meals on Wheels People  
 NAACP  
 NatureScaping of SWWA  
 North Community Food Bank  
 Ogden Elementary School  
 Open House Ministries  
 OSPI (Office of Schools and Public Instruction)  
 Oregon State University Extension



WSU EXTENSION  
**Clark County**



4-H

AGRICULTURE  
PRODUCTIONCOMMUNITY & ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

FAMILY &amp; HOME



FOOD &amp; NUTRITION

AGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCESAGRICULTURE AND  
NATURAL RESOURCESWSU FACULTY  
AND STAFF

# Partnerships, Collaborations and Cooperations

## Partnerships and Collaborations continued

- PeaceHealth
- Ridgefield Garden Club
- Roosevelt Elementary School
- Salmon Creek Farmers Market
- SeaMar Community Health
- Second Mile Marketplace and Hub
- SHARE House
- Shifted Theory
- SWW Accountable Communities of Health
- The Foundation
- Tractor Supply Co.
- Truman Elementary
- Tsugawa Nursery
- United State Department of Agriculture
- United States Department of Agriculture
- USDA-NRCS
- Vancouver Farmers Market
- Vancouver Garden Club
- Vancouver School District
- Vancouver Housing Authority
- Walnut Grove Elementary
- Washington State University-Vancouver
- Waste Connections
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Washington State Department of Health
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Washington State Farmers Market Association
- West Van for Youth Substance Abuse Coalition
- WIC (Women, Infant and Children)
- Yacolt Primary School
- Youth and Family Link



### Notice of Non-Discrimination:

In matters of admission, employment, housing or services, or in the educational programs or activities it operates, WSU does not discriminate or permit discrimination by any member of its community against any individual on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex and/or gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, creed, genetic information, marital status, protected veteran status, honorably discharged veteran, member of the military, disability, or immigration or citizenship status(except as authorized by federal or state law, regulation, or government contract). WSU is required by federal and state laws and regulations, including Title IX of the education Amendments of 1972, to not discriminate in such a manner. WSU provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.