

Western's Huxley College Speaker Series to Host Mariah Ross February 10

Contact: Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment at (360) 650-3520.

January 30, 2012

BELLINGHAM – Mariah Ross, Sustainable Business Development Manager of Sustainable Connections, will present "Sustainable Connections: Taking Action for a Healthy Community" as part of Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment Speaker Series at 12pm on Friday, February 10th in AW 304 on the Western campus.

The presentation is free and open to the public.

Mariah will discuss Sustainable Connections (SC) and its program areas of Sustainability Business Development, Think Local First, Food & Farming, Green Building and Energy Efficiency & Renewables. SC offers multiple avenues for interested people to get more involved with the group and live a more sustainable lifestyle, ranging from offering tips for buying and eating locally to providing volunteering and internship opportunities.

Mariah is passionate about the successful integration of sustainable practices into business. She has worked in both her professional and volunteer life as a change agent to bring about these practices in business. Before joining SC in the fall of 2009, Mariah was the Sustainability Director with a local electronics company. This company is a leader in the community in showing how recycling can be successfully implemented in both office and manufacturing spaces. Mariah also has a successful sales and marketing background and has enjoyed working as an entrepreneur to develop new business units in her career thus far. Since 2007 Mariah has served as the Green Chair for the Ski to Sea race committee, creating a successful recycling program for the entire Ski to Sea weekend and creating a carbon offset program for all racers. While not at work, Mariah loves the outdoors and can be found mountain biking, hiking, skiing in the winter, and gardening in the warmer months.

Anyone interested in this topic is encouraged to come and participate; the presentation will include a question-and-answer period. The speaker series is held by Western's Huxley College of the Environment to bring together the environmentally minded community and other

interested members of the WWU and Bellingham communities. Speakers address topics of contemporary environmental concern in the region and the world.

For more information, please contact the main office of Huxley College of the Environment, at (360) 650-3520.

Western's Huxley College of the Environment is one of the oldest environmental colleges in the nation and a recognized national leader in producing the next generation of environmental stewards. The College's academic programs reflect a broad view of the physical, biological, social and cultural world. This innovative and interdisciplinary approach makes Huxley unique. The College has earned international recognition for the quality of its programs.