

Celebrating Our Partnership with the City of Salem

October 23, 2023

Wednesday, October 18 officially marked the launch of our Sustainable City Year Program partnership with the City of Salem! The kickoff event celebrated the year-long collaboration that will offer a mutually advantageous bond between University of Oregon students and Salem's community.

In addition to our esteemed speakers, including Marc Schlossberg, Co-Director of the Sustainable Cities Institute; John Karl Scholz, President of the University of Oregon; and Chris Hoy, Mayor of Salem; we were also honored to have an array of distinguished deans and professors join us at the event. Together, they eloquently articulated our program's objectives, emphasizing the heart of our mission — the unity of students, faculty, and the city.

“This is hands-on, applied education that serves the broader community,” Scholz said. “It's an essential part of modern higher education, connecting students to classroom material in deeper ways and developing real workforce skills. Likewise, it can be transformative for the communities as they look to meet their various community goals.”

Over the 2023-2024 academic year, SCYP will harness the University of Oregon's wide-ranging talents to address Salem's community needs. Both students and staff from the College of Design, the School of Journalism and Communication, the College of Arts and Sciences, Lundquist College of Business, and the School of Law will devote their efforts to producing creative solutions.

“We put our passion to work, with the help of the expertise of our faculty, and the innovation of our students, along with the energy of our community partners, as we strive together to solve the wicked problems of the day,” said Adrian Parr, Dean of the College of Design.

Take a look [here](#) to explore the faculty and classes whose projects will be at the core of our transformative partnership.

Hoy said the community is still feeling the effects of SCYP's efforts from their first partnership in 2010. Salem's 1,200-acre park and fee administration exemplify the lasting work of the university's students.

“None of us actually quite know what amazing ideas students are gonna produce this year for Salem's challenging questions and ambitious goals,” Schlossberg said. “Yet we know that good things will happen.”

Thank you to all who attended and our outstanding speakers. We are grateful for everyone's contributions and efforts in nourishing this partnership.