



## 2024 Network Summit

**Date & Time:** Friday, February 16 from 8am-4pm PST

**Location:** [Cataldo Hall at Gonzaga University](#)

**Address:** 429 E Boone Ave, Spokane, WA 99202 ([campus map](#))

### Program Overview

**8am - Coffee & Breakfast.** Use this informal gathering time at the start of the day to get acquainted with your peer organizers, producers, state agency staff, and community supporters.

**9am - Building the Network.** An update from the Northwest Food Hub Network project team on our latest organizing efforts, market development breakthroughs, and plans for the year ahead.

- Andrew Yokom - Executive Director, Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative
- Dave Prather - General Manager, Western Montana Growers Cooperative
- Amy McCann - CEO, Local Food Marketplace
- Elliott Smith - Co-Founder & CEO, Kitchen Sync Strategies
- Charlie Michel - Cooperative Development Center Director, Mission West CDP

**10am - Value Chain Investments.** A behind-the-scenes look at upcoming USDA initiatives with program leads from the Northwest & Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center.

- Marcia Ostrom - Associate Professor, Washington State University
- Sydney DeLuna - Program Coordinator, Oregon Community Food Systems Network
- Laura Raymond - Regional Markets Program Lead, WA State Dept. of Agriculture
- Hailey Vine - Food & Agriculture Development Specialist, MT Dept. of Agriculture
- Facilitator: Colette DePhelps, Community Food Systems Educator, University of Idaho

**11am - Growing Farm to School.** F2S advocates describe how they're using values-based purchasing and education to bring students closer to their local farms and the food that they grow.

- Aaron Smith - Director of Nutrition Services, Seattle Public Schools
- Molly Kirkham - Local Foods Specialist, National Center for Appropriate Technology
- Kendra Dean - Farm to School Partnerships Grant Coordinator, NEWESD 101
- Jay Stagg - Co-Director and Farm to School Coordinator, Montana Team Nutrition
- Facilitator: Blake Lineweaver - Co-op Development Coordinator, Mission West CDP

**12pm - Lunch Break.** A locally sourced meal served on site featuring ingredients from our producers. Take this time to catch up and catch your breath before we reconvene next hour.

**1pm - Perspectives from the Field.** Cooperative organizers and members share how they're promoting economic democracy, social responsibility, and ownership of our regional food system.

- Kiara Kashuba - Executive Director, Gorge Farmer Collective (Hood River, OR)
- Santos Guadarrama - Farmer-Owner, LINC Foods (Spokane, WA)
- Jacob Slosberg - President, Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative (Mount Vernon, WA)
- Casey Olson - Vice Chairperson, Glacier Processing Cooperative (Columbia Falls, MT)
- Facilitator: Lyndsay Gutierrez - MT Cooperative Development Center (Great Falls, MT)

**2pm - Networking Beyond the Northwest.** Learn how food hub networks like ours are taking shape across the country and how we're sharing knowledge to grow stronger together.

- Will Gray - Managing Director, Eastern Food Hub Collaborative
- Katelyn Porter - Program Manager, New Hampshire Food Hub Network
- Cheryl Bilinski - Cornell University + New York Food Hub Collaborative
- Sydney DeLuna - Program Coordinator, Oregon Food Hub Network
- Facilitator: Charlie Michel - Program Manager, Northwest Food Hub Network

**3pm - Wrap-Up Remarks.** A look ahead to next year and how to stay involved in the meantime!

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## Evening Social Hour

**Time & Location:** [Lumberbeard Brewing](#) from 4-7pm PST

**Address:** 25 E 3rd Ave, Spokane, WA 99202 ([get directions](#))

**Join us for food and drinks at our favorite local brewery!** Lumberbeard Brewing is located southeast of downtown Spokane, about a five-minute drive from Gonzaga's campus. You'll find plenty of street parking available nearby but we suggest carpooling or calling a rideshare to keep your trip socially responsible. If you're ordering a beverage, ask your bartender to recommend a beer featuring locally grown grain from our friends at [LINC Malt](#) 🌾