

# Seattle Professional Development Conference for Homestay Managers

January 28-29, 2020

International House, Pierce College, Lakewood WA

## AGENDA

### Tuesday

1 pm – 1:15 pm

**Welcome and Introductions**

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm

**Food: Can we keep both students and hosts happy?**

The most common complaint students have about their homestays is about food – there isn't enough and some just don't like North American cooking. On the other hand, hosts worry that students eat too much and that food costs are soaring. In this session, we'll discuss ways to prepare students for this adjustment and help hosts with meal planning. In addition, there will be tips so that hosts can manage grocery budgets.

*Doug Ronson is the author of *The Essential Guide for Homestay Hosts*. He loves to eat!*

2:15 pm – 2:45 pm

**Coffee and Networking Break**

2:45 pm – 4 pm

**Host Appreciation: How to Retain your Top Hosts**

Hosts do a lot of work for minimal compensation. When you have an outstanding host, you want to show your appreciation and do your best to keep them hosting over the long term. Lynnette Berry will discuss some unique and wonderful ways to say "thank you" to your dedicated hosts.

*Lynnette Berry is International Housing Manager at Whatcom Community College in Bellingham, WA.*

5 pm – 6 pm

**Networking Reception**

## Wednesday

- 8:30 am – 10 am **Helping International Students with Mental Health Challenges**  
Students are increasingly arriving in the United States with issues such as addictions to gaming, anorexia and depression. Both homestay coordinators and hosts need to be able to spot red flags so that these students can get the help they need. In addition, the presenter will discuss the resources available to students.  
*Megan Irby is a licensed mental health counsellor in Washington State and the faculty counsellor at Pierce College. She has extensive experience working with and supporting international students.*
- 10 am – 10:30 am **Coffee Break and Networking**
- 10:30 am – 11:45 am **Great Matches Keep Students Happy and Prevent Moves**  
Edmonds Community College has a student-driven approach to ensure outstanding placements in host families. Perry Gibson will discuss how the college matches students and hosts. As well, he will outline ways to reduce the number of move requests your program receives.  
*Perry Gibson is Associate Director and Homestay Coordinator in the Housing and Residence Life department at Edmonds Community College in Seattle. He has been involved in homestay for many years.*
- 11:45 am – 12:45 pm **Buffet Lunch**
- 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm **Issues in Homestay: Group and Table Discussions**  
Prior to the workshop, we will be reaching out to attendees to find out what challenges they face in their homestay programs. We will choose the top three concerns for the group to address.  
*Doug Ronson has been organizing homestay manager professional development workshops for the past four years. He is the author of The Essential Guide for Homestay Hosts.*
- 1:45 pm - 2 pm **Coffee Break**
- 2 pm – 3 pm **Case Studies of Challenging Homestay Scenarios at Tables**
- 3 pm – 3:15 pm **Key Takeaways and Wrap up**