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# Interview with Susan Wiencke, Madison High School, 2013 (audio)

Susan Wiencke

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## PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT <a href="Interview Index">Interview Index</a>

INTERVIEWEE: Susan Wiencke

Interviewer: Ciji Dieringer

Date: 5/15/2013

Location of Interview: Redacted Research Assistant: Carmen Vigil

Interview Series: SUSTAINABILITY HISTORY PROJECT

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN

EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

#### Time Notes

| 1:30  | Experiences at Lewis and Clark; Kim Bradkin                                       |
|-------|---|
| 2:00  | Madison High School- Sustainable Agriculture Teacher                              |
| 4:00  | Experiences that made her decide to want to each; hands on teaching, garden based |
|       | education, Slide Ranch in Northern California                                     |
| 5:30  | Garden and landscaping business, School garden coordinator at Crest               |
| 7:30  | Sustainability- definitions   |
|       | Sustainable agriculture, multi-faceted  |
| 9:35  | Portland –sustainability programs   |
|       | Levels of integration might be less than on the East Coast, less support for      |
|       | sustainability in public schools  |
| 11:47 | Urban Farm Collective 2009  |
| 14:00 | Food security, education component  |
| 16:30 | Food week at Madison High School  |
| 17:30 | Maggie Michaels, time constraints of teachers                                     |
| 19:10 | Madison High school   |
| 20:00 | Beginning of Madison School garden  |
|       | Organic vegetables  |
|       | 2007-2008 Anne Marrow Lindberg grant  |
|       |   |

|       | Food forest, edible perennial garden, herb spiral, Portland City gardens     |
|-------|--|
| 24:00 | 2009-2010 Food Week  |
|       | 2010-2011 Susan's first year-first year as a classified position through PPs |
| 25:00 | 2011-2012 Whole Foods grant- Money to get electricity outside                |

### Time Notes

| Time  | Notes  |
|-------|--|
|       | 2012-2013 \$2000 grant for Food Week   |
|       | Re-design garden to make it more cohesive  |
|       | Irrigation system installed  |
| 26:40 | Role as garden coordinator   |
|       | Rarely actually tending garden   |
|       | Sustainable Agriculture students and Special Ed students tend to garden              |
|       | Part of curriculum is to have students in the garden every day                       |
| 28:30 | Sustainable food systems curriculum  |
| ı     | Food Inc. – Read through by chapters   |
|       | Hybrid science and social studies  |
|       | Next year- students will get college credit  |
|       | Biology classes can use garden (makes sense in their curriculum)                     |
| 31:00 | Fruits and vegetables grown in garden  |
|       | Afterschool sales, sold to public or to teachers                                     |
|       | High cost of growing food in the garden  |
|       | Sustainability of produce  |
| 33:00 | Funding issues- Would rather use a business model so that students can see the       |
|       | value of produce   |
|       | Staffing is very limited- Cafeteria cannot prepare food, lettuce and cherry tomatoes |
|       | only   |
|       | Students' sense of pride in seeing food they have grown in the cafeteria line        |
| 37:54 | Sentiments about garden program  |
|       | Students very excited – Principle and staff as well                                  |
|       | Guide students and give them experience  |
|       | District funded garden coordinator is very rare                                      |
| 39:50 | Most other agriculture programs are rural in nature                                  |
|       | I .  |

| 40:50    | Isolation of different departments in schools                               |
|----------|---|
| 41:50    | Gardening at home   |
|          | Student demographics  |
|          | 70% or so on free or reduced lunch  |
|          | Confidence factor   |
| 44:56    | Elementary schools tend to have bigger programs                             |
| 46:36    | Obstacles- funding for CTE (Career and Technical Education) programs in the |
|          | future  |
| 47:30    | Food justice/food systems courses   |
|          | Advocacy work- there is a need for funding in these programs                |
| 50:00    | Urban farming class   |
|          | Propagation hybrid course, ½ gardening ½ business class.                    |
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