

2018 IMPACT Report



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ACHS was founded in 1978 with a mission to provide leadership in holistic health education through comprehensive professional online and on-campus education and high-quality natural products with a commitment to sustainable practices and principles.

Over 40 years later, ACHS remains committed to its mission demonstrated by its status as a Certified B Corporation® and registered benefit company. ACHS is committed to positively impact the communities we serve and our planet through our undergraduate and graduate integrative health and wellness programs, our charitable and community impact projects, and by providing award-winning workplace and employee benefit programs that support workers and their families.

“At ACHS, we’re a community of holistic health learners. Our motto is: *Learn well. Live well. Educate others.* We operate with a focus on people and the planet, not just the bottom line, and we’re proud to be an institution devoted to transparency, accountability, and bettering our world for others.”

-ACHS President and Founder DORENE PETERSEN.



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GREEN BUILDING PRACTICES

ACHS partnered with Energy Trust of Oregon in 2015 to assure best practices in lighting, mechanical and plumbing plans, and overall sustainable construction practices where possible during the renovation of its new administrative offices in Johns Landing. This included LED lighting upgrades, use of occupancy sensors and water-reducing faucets, and use of sustainable office equipment and supplies such as our cubicle walls that use fabric made from recycled water bottles.



GREEN TEXTBOOKS



ACHS printed textbooks are printed on paper stocks that are Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and Rainforest Alliance certified. This means the production of the paper used in ACHS textbooks passes a high level of scrutiny from multiple independent organizations devoted to responsible sourcing. ACHS's textbook publisher also recycles 100% of the byproduct from paper processing and printer waste including toner, toner cartridges, and parts. ACHS's publisher is also located within 200 miles of the campus. ACHS also encourages the use of eTextbooks to avoid printing and the use of paper and over 50% of ACHS students elect this option.

GREEN ENERGY

100% of our energy for the Portland, Oregon campus is from renewable sources within our area—including wind, geothermal, and solar power—and ACHS has pledged to the PGE Save More, Matter More campaign.



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PORTLAND COMPOSTS



ACHS participates in the Portland Composts! program through the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, which allows us to compost food items and plant material from the ACHS Botanical Teaching Garden.



ACHS is recognized with the City of Portland Sustainability at Work certification for its comprehensive recycling, composting, and green campus initiatives.

CONSERVATION

In November 2018, students and faculty at the ACHS Kona Aromatherapy Bootcamp visited the Hawaiian Legacy Sandalwood Reforestation project and planted 20 sandalwood trees to contribute to Hawaiian Legacy's conservation and reforestation initiatives.



ACHS graduate Elizabeth McDonald planting sandalwood.



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 In 2016, ACHS President and Founder Dorene Petersen spent 27 days of volunteer service on international assignment for Winrock's U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Farmer-to-Farmer Program in Terai, the southern lowland area of Nepal. While overseas, she worked with the Forest Environment Workers Union Nepal (FEWUN) to train farmers and forest workers—many of them women—in efficient and improved methods of essential oil processing, as well as how to assess and improve essential oil quality by focusing on organic, sustainable practices and how to strategically market essential oils in the international market.



 Petersen also focused on the FEWUN mission to educate about, and provide support for workers' rights through the much-needed creation of jobs that emphasize the sustainable conservation of the local forests and Nepalese natural resources. She also helped identify forward-looking work opportunities for women and youth (Nepalese millennials) in the organic, natural, personal care market.

This year, ACHS funded a well to support the women-owned Laxmi Leasehold in the Labandi region of Sarlahi, Nepal and provide local water for their essential oil production operations. It is estimated that the new well, now completed and operational, will be sufficient to irrigate 14 hectares of land or approximately 34.60 acres and save workers walking several kilometers with water.



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American College of Healthcare Sciences (ACHS) has been educating industry-leading holistic health professionals since 1978. We are a world-renowned, accredited, fully online institute of higher education, offering certificate, diploma and degrees programs in Aromatherapy, Herbal Medicine, Holistic Nutrition, Holistic Spa Management, Integrative Health and Wellness Coaching.

ACHS is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC). DEAC is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).



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