



Portland Water Bureau Chief Engineer, Jodie Inman

# Head Engineer Honored

## DJC Holds Women of Vision Ceremony

Portland Water Bureau Chief Engineer Jodie Inman, P.E. was among honorees at the Daily Journal of Commerce (DJC) Women of Vision ceremony.

"I'm honored to receive this award," Inman said. "It's important to bring an equity-focused lens to the mission-driven work of maintaining our reliable water system. This award recognizes our progress toward creating a diverse, inclusive and well-managed workplace for women and other historically under-represented groups."

Inman's appointment in 2021 as chief engineer—the second woman to hold the role at the Water Bureau—helped blaze a trail. Now, she is one of eight senior women leaders steering the bureau's management team.

"The Portland Water Bureau is proud to be a leader in elevating women in water utility work," said Portland Water Bureau Director Gabriel Solmer. "The expertise of leaders like Jodie Inman are helping us invest in a pipeline of future talent that is more reflective of the city we live in."

Since her appointment as chief engineer, Inman has worked to integrate inclusion in Water Bureau processes, from updating project selection criteria to centering equity considerations throughout construction.

"Our projects and capital work provide real opportunity to make a difference," said Inman. "Support of local women- and minority-owned firms and the promotion of living wage jobs for these historically underrepresented groups is a key part of leading with equity," she said.

Inman was drawn to engineering during her upbringing in the Tri-Cities area of eastern Washington, where many of her friends' parents worked in the field. "I always had a love of math and science, and engineering seemed the perfect fit to blend those interests and to contribute to my community," said Inman. "As my career progressed, I realized that I wanted to take what I had learned to make a difference, and my time at the Portland Water Bureau has allowed me to do just that."

Inman's Water Bureau career began in the engineering planning group, where she supervised professional and technical staff in support of project planning, asset management and hydraulic modeling. From there, she went on to work as an engineering supervisor on special projects.

"I've worked on a wide array of projects that have allowed me to build relationships around the bureau and have given me a well-rounded perspective on how this all plays together," said Inman.

One project leveraging collaboration was the Oregon Department of Transportation's U.S. 26 Outer Powell Boulevard safety improvement project. Jodie invested time reaching out to colleagues in different jurisdictions to build more collaborative relationships.

"Inman's collaborative approach has led to solutions that better serve underrepresented communities, are fiscally responsible and provide benefit to the community while reducing the impacts of projects," said engineering design group manager Ken Ackerman.

The engineering group's work on capital projects, including a new drinking water filtration facility and the recently completed 12.4-million-gallon seismically reinforced underground reservoir at Washington Park, add to the water system's resilience to potential drinking water contaminants and to natural disasters. A resilient water system can handle emergency events with minimal service interruptions.

# Oregon's Only Burn Center Turns 50

## Dedicated to Burn Injury Treatment celebrates years of service

The Legacy Oregon Burn Center (OBC), the only burn center in Oregon and Southwest Washington, is celebrating a half-century of providing groundbreaking surgical, critical, and specialized wound and burn care to pediatric and adult patients. Each year, the OBC treats more than 400 patients from all over the state and region. The physicians and nurses receive over 1,400 calls a year from professional's nationwide seeking advice on burn injuries.

"We are dedicated to burn injury treatment, research, education, and prevention," says Dr. Nik Eshraghi, the Legacy Oregon Burn Center's burn surgeon and medical director. The OBC is a national leader verified by the American Burn Association, which confirms the ability to provide optimal care to wound and burn patients. It is one of 123 self-designated burn care facilities in the country and is one of three verified burn centers on the West Coast (Seattle and Sacramento are the others).

Shaela Rivers spent three months at the OBC in a medically induced coma. In 2019, a neighbor pounded on her door to alert her that her mother's house was on fire. Instinctually, she ran into the burning house. Fortunately, her mother was at work, but Shaela sustained burns on 80 percent of her body. Shaela is still connected to the OBC through the burn survivor program. The OBC provides aftercare programs that continue after a patient is discharged to help survivors heal from the physical and emotional scarring of burns (see attached photos).

Anne Scott, the aftercare coordinator, is a burn survivor and a peer supporter. "I sit on the unit and visit patients, loved ones, and parents," says Scott. "I help them learn about



Dr. Nik Eshraghi

life after burns and our support programs. Sometimes, it takes a while to consider what life as a burn survivor is for them." Right now, Scott is tracking 400 adult and pediatric survivors. The Legacy Oregon Burn Center was established in 1973 in the main hospital with a few beds. Since then, the OBC has moved to a separate building on the Legacy Emanuel campus, which includes 16 intensive care patient rooms, a large treatment room, a hydrotherapy room, and laser scar treatment. A lot has changed since 1973. Fewer patients are severely burned thanks to safety enhancements. Those burned are more likely to survive. Also, clinical trials and research programs play a significant role in burn care. A study is underway seeking the effects of nitrous oxide on pain.

The OBC also treats complex wounds (from diabetes) and rare infections. It is positioned for the future to face environmental challenges like wildfires and social issues like homeless population-related burns and wounds. Dr. Eshraghi says the OBC will continue to serve the community with cutting-edge technology, research, and the latest treatment options. "We must give hope to our patients by providing compassionate care. That is our today and our future."

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