**MHCC’s Erin Rice Receives Community College Outstanding Student Award from Oregon Society of American Foresters**

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Andrea Watts, OSAF:** 503-224-8046, [wattsa@forestry.org](mailto:wattsa@forestry.org)

PORTLAND— Erin Rice has received the Community College Outstanding Student Award from the Oregon Society of American Foresters (OSAF). Rice accepted the award at the OSAF virtual Annual Meeting on May 13, 2021.

This award is presented annually to an Oregon community college student who is a member of the Society of American Foresters, participates regularly in their respective student SAF chapter (or local chapter) activities, including a leadership role of some kind, represents the community college SAF student chapter at state or national SAF gatherings, and who demonstrates good academic standing, good citizenship and excellence in extracurricular and professional work activities.

“Students and faculty trust Erin, value her leadership skills, and respect her decision-making,” said Jason Pinkerton, a faculty advisor at Mt. Hood Community College. “She represented the MHCC Natural Resources Technology Program at the OSAF Annual Meeting in October 2020 where she eloquently shared her experiences and recommendations regarding the shift of field learning to an online format.”

In June 2021, Erin will graduate with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Natural Resources Technology: Forest Resources and then transfer to Oregon State University to major in forestry or natural resources management.

Erin’s willingness to take on tasks is one of her many qualities that impresses Jason, and why she deserves this award. “She is the first to volunteer with groups on campus or to assist other students with field laboratory exercises,” he said. “Her level of skill and dedication to seeing her fellow students succeed is unprecedented. This year she has spent a large amount of time helping her fellow students and instructor with online learning delivery methods and remained a critical force in helping to develop and improve the course and program learning environment. In all circumstances she acts in a professional manner, provides sound guidance and judgement, and adds a significant amount to overall students’ success.

As part of the award, Erin received a $50 donation to MHCC's student chapter in her name. Her name will also be added to a plaque of fellow OSAF Community College Outstanding Student award winners, which will reside at MHCC until next year’s OSAF award ceremony.

*OSAF and its 15 local chapters represent all segments the forestry profession within the state. The society includes public and private practitioners, researchers, administrators, educators, and forestry students. Its mission is to advance the science, education, technology, and practice of forestry; to enhance the competency of its members; to establish professional excellence; and to use the knowledge, skills, and conservation ethics of the profession to ensure the continued health and use of forest ecosystems and the present and future availability of forest resources to benefit society.*

###