

12:00 - 1:15 pm

Luncheon Remarks

Willamette River Room



Kate Brown, Governor

Kate Brown, Oregon's 38th Governor, has over 25 years of experience in standing up for working families and making government more accountable. Oregon companies have more students graduating with job-ready skills through doubling career and technical education (CTE) and science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) education funding. As a leader who has always been on the side of working Oregon families, Brown successfully helped pass Family and Medical Leave, making Oregon one of the first states in the nation to allow parents to stay home with their sick children without fear of losing their jobs. And she supported passage of the nation's first minimum wage increase law to recognize economic differences region to region.

From 2009 to 2015, Brown served as Oregon's Secretary of State, where she was a leader in increasing government transparency and accountability. In that office, Brown oversaw an Audits Division that identified millions in savings by increasing government efficiencies and rooting out waste. She streamlined business registration and licensing by implementing Business Xpress, an online 'one-stop shop' that enables business owners and entrepreneurs to establish and run a business in Oregon without getting bumped around from state agency to state agency. As Governor, she has appointed a Regional Solutions team that has been effective in bringing state and local officials together with businesses to streamline projects around the state.

Brown grew up in Minnesota and earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Kate came to Oregon to attend Lewis and Clark's Northwestern School of Law, where she received her law degree and Certificate in Environmental Law.

With her husband Dan, Brown raised Dan's son and daughter, who are now grown, in Portland. When Brown is not busy at the Capitol in Salem, you'll find her horseback riding or hiking. In February of 2015, Brown and her husband moved into the official residence, Mahonia Hall.