NONPROFIT DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION HUB PDXWIT CLOSES
Organization suffers effects of economic downturn, reduced DEI sponsorship

February 6, 2024 – PORTLAND, Ore. – PDXWIT (https://pdxwit.org) announced today that the 501(c)3 nonprofit organization's board of directors has voted in favor of suspending ongoing operations due to a lack of predictable financial resources commensurate with continuing to support the ongoing operations required to maintain effective inclusive and accessible programming for the Portland, Oregon, technology community.

The PDXWIT Board of Directors released the following statement: "The decision to close down PDXWIT did not come easy, but it was absolutely necessary. Due to the lingering effects of the pandemic coupled with ever decreasing corporate budgets dedicated to diversity and inclusion work, the organization has found itself in an increasingly untenable financial position — despite incredible efforts by the staff and leadership to sustain it. Without predictable sponsor and grant dollars focused on diversity, inclusion, and equity, PDXWIT cannot continue doing the work it has championed and supported for so long. This is a terrible loss for the community and for DEI work in general."

Based on the board decision, PDXWIT will begin reducing staff immediately and begin winding down operations with a target of officially terminating operations before April 2024. Questions about the timelines or operational capacity should be directed to PDXWIT's hello@pdxwit.org email address.

What began in 2011 as a group of half a dozen women meeting over coffee, PDXWIT would eventually become a fully staffed organization that hosted hundreds of events — even throughout the challenging years of a global pandemic — positively impacting more than 10,000 attendees and more than 1200 people through the PDXWIT Mentor Program. Over the course of its existence, PDXWIT has had a demonstrable impact on the composition of and programming for the Portland technology community.

About PDXWIT
Founded in 2011, PDXWIT is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to its mission of building a better tech industry by creating access, dismantling inequities, and fueling belonging. For more information, please visit https://pdxwit.org.

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