Heather Cox Richardson Joins Oregon Historical Society’s “Historians and the News” Virtual Program Series February 15

Portland, OR — February 4, 2021 — The Oregon Historical Society (OHS) is excited to announce that Boston College professor Heather Cox Richardson will join its popular “Historians and the News” series on Monday, February 15. This virtual program series, which has previously hosted historians Erika Lee, Joanne Freeman, and Kevin Kruse, provides a space for some of the nation’s most renowned historians to discuss their insights about current events, informed by years of scholarly analysis of the past.

This virtual program will take place at 5pm PT via Zoom; attendees can register in advance at https://orhs.ejoinme.org/HCR. For those who are unable to attend the event in real time, OHS will email registrants a link to access the recording, which will be available for 30 days following the live program.

Each featured historian is joined by Oregon State University professor and Oregon Historical Society trustee Christopher McKnight Nichols, who worked with OHS staff members to develop this program as a way to support the Society throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As historians who rely on archival institutions like OHS to do their research, all series participants have graciously donated their time to develop this program to sustain the Oregon Historical Society’s important work. While there is no cost to register, attendees are invited to make a donation in support of the OHS Pandemic Survival Fund to help replace revenue the Society has lost throughout the pandemic.

“We are thrilled by how this series has taken off, which further underscores the powerful importance of understanding the historical dimensions of our greatest challenges today,” said Christopher Nichols. “I am especially delighted,” he remarked, “that after the momentous events of the 2020 election, the storming of the U.S. Capitol, in the midst of the pandemic and now confronted with impeachment, we have Professor Heather Cox Richardson joining us. She is one of the most renowned and accomplished historians of U.S. political history, and her insights will help us all better understand the extraordinary
events of the recent past and maybe even assist us in charting a better path forward into the future.”

Through her daily newsletter, “Letters From an American,” Heather Cox Richardson shares with over 350,000 readers an authoritative, compassionate overview of the previous day’s news. During a time filled with fear and uncertainty, when the very underpinnings of our nation’s democracy are under attack, Professor Richardson’s newsletters have helped Americans share in the big-picture perspective that only a deep understanding of history can provide. Every night — after a full day of teaching, researching, and writing — Professor Richardson assesses the day’s news and offers up an analysis of its significance to her grateful readers across the country.

Heather Cox Richardson teaches nineteenth-century American history at both the undergraduate and the graduate levels. Her early work focused on the transformation of political ideology from the Civil War to the presidency of Theodore Roosevelt. It examined issues of race, economics, westward expansion, and the construction of the concept of an American middle class. The author of numerous books and articles, her history of the Republican Party, To Make Men Free (2014), examines the fundamental tensions in American politics from the time of the Northwest Ordinance to the present. Her most recent book is How the South Won the Civil War (2020).

Christopher McKnight Nichols is associate professor of history at Oregon State University, Director of OSU’s Center for the Humanities, and was recently named the Sanders Eminent Professor by the OSU Honors College. He founded and leads OSU’s Citizenship and Crisis Initiative. Nichols is an expert on the history of the United States’ relationships with the world, including isolationism, internationalism, globalization, ideas, and political history, with an emphasis on the Gilded Age and Progressive Era through the present. An Andrew Carnegie Fellow and Organization of American Historians (OAH) Distinguished Lecturer, Nichols was honored as Oregon State University’s Honors College Professor of the Year. Nichols also is a frequent commentator on air and in print on U.S. foreign policy and politics, often appearing on Oregon Public Broadcasting’s program Think Out Loud with Dave Miller. He is an editorial board member of the “Made by History” section of the Washington Post and is a permanent member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Nichols is the author, co-author, or editor of six books, most notably Promise and Peril: America at the Dawn of a Global Age, and the forthcoming Rethinking American Grand Strategy. Nichols is a proud member of the Board of Trustees of the Oregon Historical Society and a passionate advocate for history and the humanities.
About the Oregon Historical Society

For more than a century, the Oregon Historical Society has served as the state’s collective memory, preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, films, and oral histories. Our research library, museum, digital platforms & website (www.ohs.org), educational programming, and historical journal make Oregon’s history open and accessible to all. We exist because history is powerful, and because a history as deep and rich as Oregon’s cannot be contained within a single story or point of view.