



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**tUrn Returns April 24-28, 2023: Eighth Weeklong Climate Crisis Awareness and Action Conference at Santa Clara University — Free and Open to Public**

**SANTA CLARA, Calif.,** — tUrn, a biannual climate action project held on the Santa Clara University campus, will be conducting its eighth weeklong event from April 24-28, 2023. The summit presents 25-30 local, national, and international headliners from many sectors of environmental learning, featuring diverse speakers from artists to scientists, economists to ecologists, clergy to culturalists. Each headliner presents a lecture, performance, panel, conversation, or reflection pertaining to climate consciousness. tUrn8 is dedicated to addressing the climate crisis through events rooted in both awareness and action.

tUrn8 will include interdisciplinary, intercultural, intergenerational, and international headliners, including talks by Shannon Rivers, of the O’Otham Akimel people, Mohan Gurunathan and Lauren Ornelas on different aspects of plant-based and food justice, Abdulhadi Achakzai, Founder of the Environmental Volunteer Network of Afghanistan, Max Haiven, author of the 2022 book *Palm Oil: The Grease of Empire*, Cherie Hill, feminist climate choreographer, Erina Irmay, Founder of Fridays for Future, Kyoto, a writing workshop with playwright and Visiting Professor of Theatre at the University of New Mexico, Erik Ehn, a West Coast premiere performance of 2022 Edinburgh’s Fringe Festival’s “Down to Earth” with SCU alumnus Drew Descourouez.

tUrn invites members of higher education institutions, partner networks, and all community members to learn about the climate crisis on many levels. “Its goal has always been to recenter

vulnerable communities and voices as leaders and teachers, and to cultivate awareness through an interdisciplinary, intercultural approach,” director Kristin Kusanovich said. “We aim to raise alarm to situation-matching but still productive levels, to inspire hope and engagement from non-specialists, and to shape actions to be more effective and equitable no matter the scale.”

These goals of environmental justice and equity are upheld through consciousness and awareness. Attendees can expect an urgent, cognitive, socio-emotional approach to the climate crisis via interactive activities or delivered by the headliners. tUrn speakers exemplify a science-based and critical stance to bring bold, challenging ideas forward. Throughout the week, participants will develop agency, activism, and advocacy strategies.

This is not a low stakes endeavor; it is about everything that is precious being lost.

Humans are losing the capacity to maintain the conditions that sustain life, but are we allowing the emotional resonance of that fact to guide us? Maybe we should.

Are we strengthening our community networks and resolve? We really should.

tUrn invites us to lean into the climate crisis, because it is time, and because we must.

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### **About tUrn Climate Crisis Awareness and Action Project**

tUrn promotes critical inquiry, large and small-scale solutions, and BIPOC and frontline community leadership in both educational and civic climate action spheres. Interdisciplinary sessions feature many aspects of environmentalism, ranging from business, law, religion, science, the arts, child studies, and more, with a special emphasis on systemic solutions and debunking disinformation. tUrn partners include over 100 SCU faculty, staff, alumni, and expert guest speakers, ten Jesuit universities, and fifteen international partners. There have been seven tUrn weeks since its launch in October 2019, with over 7000 attendees in total. tUrn is a member of the U.N. Paris Committee for Capacity-Building Network. The project teaches and inspires us to consider how we must function on all of these levels at once and understand how impactful ideas and solutions generated from any level can enact change via resolve, political will, or inspiration at any other level. Local solutions may lead national ones; international ideas may inspire a neighborhood initiative. Goodness flows in all directions.

Explore resources, goals, partners, and statement of urgency at: <https://www.scu.edu/turn/>.

### **About the Headliners**

tUrn8 will include over 20 headlines over the course of the week.

See more at: <https://www.scu.edu/turn/headliners/>.

### **tUrn Contacts**

For more information, to plan your group's involvement in an upcoming tUrn week, to create your own tUrn event, or for any questions, please contact us at: [tUrnproject@scu.edu](mailto:tUrnproject@scu.edu) | 408.554.5542

