

Yumei Wang

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FROM PILES TO POLICY: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A GEOTECH

Description

This talk will present a high-level overview of her experience as a geotechnical engineer, working in consulting, state government, education, and policy development. Her experiences have spanned from traditional geotechnical projects to becoming a leader on disaster resilience.

Biography

Yumei Wang, Senior Advisor on Infrastructure Resilience and Risk at Portland State University, focuses on disaster risk management. A licensed engineering geologist and engineer, Wang specializes in forming new policies and programs on Cascadia earthquakes, tsunamis, and extreme weather. Her leadership has improved and accelerated the state-of-practice on mitigating deficient critical infrastructure. While chair of Oregon's earthquake commission, Wang created safety laws on schools and emergency response facilities and established retrofit grant programs. A founding member of the NEHRP Advisory Committee and NIBS Lifeline Advisory Panel, she has chaired national committees including the EERI Honors Committee and School Earthquake Safety Initiative. Recognitions include: 2018 ASCE Le Val Lund Practice Award for Lifeline Risk Reduction; 2021 EERI Alquist Award; 2022 Public Service Award from the Geological Society of America; 2026 EERI Distinguished Lecturer; and U.S. Congressional Fellow in Washington, DC.