



WIN membership is open to all current and former Washington State Employees

washingtonimmigrantnetwork.org

WIN Year-end Celebration Event



Help WIN plan its year-end celebration by completing our survey below:

[WIN Celebration Survey](#)

Survey results will be due by Feb. 25th

Seeking Volunteers to Support WIN



WIN is seeking volunteers to assist in the following subcommittees:

- Venue Sub-committee Lead
- Communications Sub-committee Lead

- Activities Sub-committee Lead
- Sequence of Events Coordination Sub-committee Lead
- Technology Trouble Shooting/Coordination Sub-committee Lead
- Guest Speaker(s) Coordination Sub-committee Lead

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on a subcommittee, please contact: WIN@ofm.wa.gov

Elia Mendoza's Immigrant Story

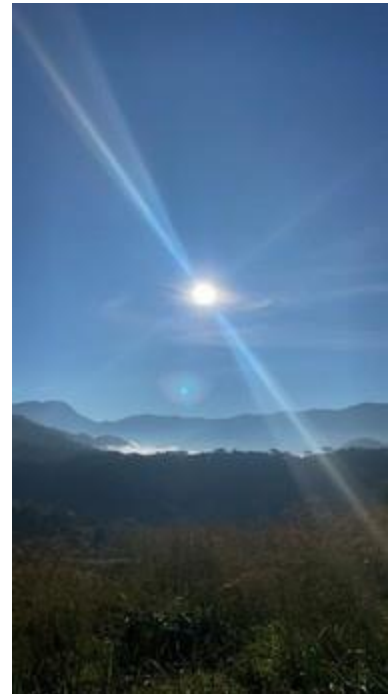


Born in California and raised in Mexico by Mexican parents, I consider myself an immigrant. My father was deported when I was a month old and instead of embarking in a treacherous journey back to California, my mother moved my three siblings and I to Mexico with my father. We lived in the Sierra Mountains of the state of Michoacan. Life in the mountains was unique; there was no electricity, no water or sewer systems and no communication services. Although it sounds out of the world I currently live in, our small piece of land in the mountains was surrounded by clear water rivers where my siblings and I spent the summer days, had an immense playground full of rope swings and soccer fields. The land gave us delicious crops, fruits, and Avocados! (Because avocados “are” their own food group ☺). We raised farm animals and made handmade tortillas very early, every morning.

In 1997, we left everything behind and came to the U.S. For the next 20 years we lived in the small agricultural town of Mattawa in Central Washington. My siblings and I were enrolled in primary school while my parents worked in the orchards. Our summer breaks consisted of harvesting asparagus at dawn and picking cherries or apples during the day. Although the population in Mattawa is predominately Hispanic, we were subjected to racism in school and around town. We were often called “beaners” and “wetbacks”, and sadly “anker babies” in the most recent years. My parents hard work paid off when my father became a Permanent Resident and my mother a U.S. Citizen passing the test in English without speaking any English. They were able to purchase their first home, meet their grandchildren, retire, and move back to Mexico, achieving their American Dream.

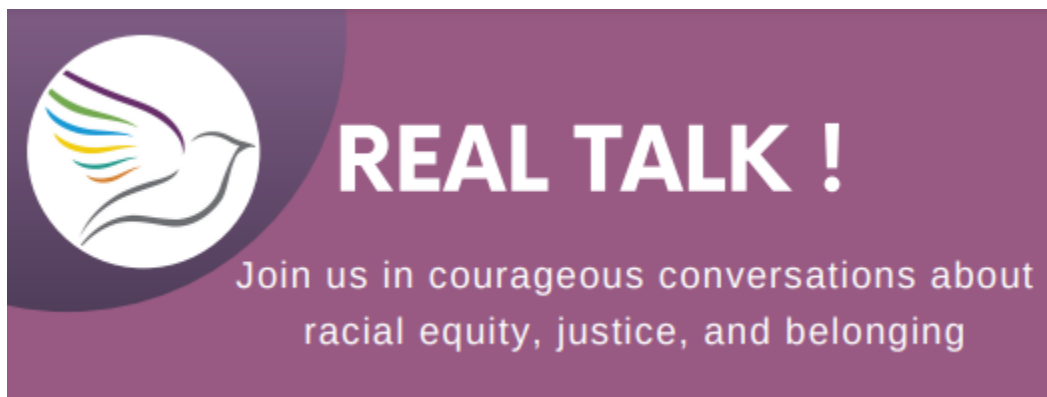
As for me, I am the first in my family to obtain a college degree thanks to my parents’ hard work. Although I love my life here, in my heart, my home will always be in the Sierra Mountains of Michoacan.

Photo of my parents view from their current residence in Michoacan, Mexico.



Upcoming Meetings & Events

Office of Equity Presents:



What

A space to discuss, learn and engage on how to take action related to advancing justice, equity, and belonging. No topic or theme is off-limits for this honest and courageous series.

Why

This was created for state agency employees to lean in, be curious, and become open to exploring experiences different from their own.

Who

Our “Real Talk!” hosts are Kendrick Stewart, Deputy Director, Washington State Department of Commerce; Megan Matthews, Engagement Manager, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services; David Puente Jr., Deputy Director, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs; and María Sigüenza, Executive Director, Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs, along with other state agency champions.

When

These conversations will occur on the fourth Tuesday of every month beginning **February 22, 2022**, with a pre-recorded introduction that will be available to provide background information.

Where

These conversations will be virtual until we can meet in person and will be recorded for accessibility and posted to the Office of Equity’s website for viewing at any time.

To request accommodations, please contact us at 360.902.3355 or 711 for telephone relay service or email at info@equity.wa.gov

[Click Here to Register](#)

Download: [Real Talk flyer](#) | [Real Talk! Transcript English](#) | [Real Talk! Transcript Spanish](#)

General Membership Meeting (Zoom) Tuesday, March 1, 2022 12:00 PM 1:00 PM

General Membership is open to all current Washington State employees, including full-time, part-time, hourly, and salaried employees who are committed to supporting and advancing the mission of WIN.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 867 8744 7524
Passcode: 312248

My Immigrant Story

Presenter:

Sanyu Tushabe, WIN's Career Development Sub Co-Chair



Sanyu Tushabe has over 10 years of state government Talent Acquisition experience, having worked with the Department of Corrections, the Health Care Authority, and currently with the Employment Security Department.

Sanyu's versatile experience as a recruiter includes facilitating hiring for volume positions, hard to fill positions and leadership positions.

She has a Master of Public Administration degree from The Evergreen State College and is a recruitment academy certified recruiter.

Sanyu immigrated from Uganda, East Africa, and currently resides in Federal Way Washington with her spouse and 11-year-old son.

Hobbies include shoe shopping and most recently jigsaw puzzles.

Become a WIN Mentor



Share Your Immigrant Story

We are collecting Immigrant Stories to highlight in our newsletter, social media, YouTube and website. Please submit your short immigrant story by completing the form below or by video recording. Thank you and we are looking forward to amplifying your story! Please visit our Immigrant Story [page](#). You can also send us an email at WIN@ofm.wa.gov.

The WIN Mentoring Program supports immigrant state employees in an inclusive environment that helps them thrive and advance their careers, as well as recruit new employees from the immigrant community at large. Learn more about becoming a mentor at: [WIN's Mentoring Program](#).



WHO WE ARE:

Support the professional development of immigrant state employees.
Recommend strategies to advance recruitment, retention, career progression and leadership development.
Educate state agencies on the experience, skills and knowledge of immigrants and the value of a diverse workforce.

WHAT WE DO:

Provide a support structure, educational resources and leadership assistance for immigrant state employees.
Encourage immigrants to consider the state as an employer of choice through inter-agency and external outreach activities.
Serve as a resource for the Office of Financial Management, State Human Resources division and state agencies in creating and sustaining a diverse and inclusive workforce.

[BRG Participation Policy FAQ](#)

Click to Follow WIN:

[LinkedIn](#)

[Facebook](#)

Find us on Youtube.com!

Meet the Washington Immigrant Network [Leadership Team](#) and some of our wonderful [members and volunteers](#).





Do you want to learn more about the Washington Immigrant Network (WIN) Business Resource Group?

Please visit our [website](#) or contact us at WIN@ofm.wa.gov.

We also encourage you to follow us on our social media links provided below.

