



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

[washingtonimmigrantnetwork.org](http://www.washingtonimmigrantnetwork.org)

Be in Solidarity with Afghan Community

Friday, August 27 at 11 am-12 pm



As we witness the situation unfolding in Afghanistan, the Washington Immigrant Network Business Resource Group expresses our deepest and strongest solidarity with the Afghan community. We are hosting a 60-minute gathering to share stories and hold space for each other during this time. We invite you to join us, listen in, engage, and support this community with us.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Email any question about the event to: WIN@ofm.wa.gov

America's Story - An Immigrant Story

“Washington immigrants are an important part of the fabric of our state. Immigrants contribute to Washington’s rich culture by bringing their arts, heritage, cuisines, rituals, and festivals to share and celebrate. The cultural influences and creative talents of immigrants can be found in every aspect of our society, from the performing arts and education to the innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of our burgeoning industries.” Executive Order 17-01

Featured Immigrant Story

Laura Sanchez- Office of Administrative Hearings



My father, at 17yrs old, came to Texas under the bracero program. His family had slotter houses in Mexico, giving him great butcher skills, which placed him in slaughterhouse work. For the next 4-5yrs, my father came in and out of the USA with his mica until his brother convinced him to go to California and seek a job at Oscar Meyers. My father was a talented butcher, and his talents with the knives landed him a position as a lead butcher at Oscar Meyers.

During a trip back to Mexico, he met my mom and married her. He visited his wife and kids for up to 4 weeks every 6-9 months from California to Mexico City. After living for 4yrs away from his wife and kids, my father decided to move us to Los Angeles, California. We arrived on 07/04/1984 at midnight. My memory of leaving Mexico is watching my mom box all our belongings and not bringing my toys. She allowed one toy per kid, I chose a doll with a disk on her back, and I would flip it to hear the doll laugh or cry. I remember

My first Christmas being so different, as I had never celebrated Santa Clause. Life was tough; My mom had to find a job, which was the first time my siblings and I were without our mom. We lived with my uncle's family in a 2-bedroom apartment; this was shocking since we had our own home in Mexico. I learned to walk alone in the streets and eat with my siblings alone at the table and without my mom. Although I came to America with a passport, I was not legal in this country.

My parents tried to fix our immigration status twice, and twice they were robbed of their money. I was sent with my siblings back to Mexico in 1986 for 6months as my mom thought there was nothing more they could do. That was when both my parents qualified for the Amnesty act of 1986. All of us kids remained illegal. I graduated with honors from HS and went on to Cal Poly Pomona for my Freshmen year of college pursuing a Child Development Degree. I paid out-of-state tuition and did not qualified for financial aid or any financial support from any program due to my illegal status. I worked two jobs (with a work permit) to help me pay for classes. At 22yrs old, I met my husband. He enlisted in the US Army in 08/1996 and we got married in 05/1997.

My husband and I filed immigration papers and we both became residents and later Naturalized as US Citizens. As my husband served 20 years in the Army I managed to graduate from UMUC with a bachelor's in Physiology and from Grand Canyon University with a Masters in Leadership. Most recently I completed a Life Coaching certification program via couch-U and ABA-therapist program. Both my children are in college: My son is at UC Davis and my daughter is at Clover Park College. I am first-generation college graduate and my children will now have the opportunity for brighter futures! that is what America is all about: giving us all a place to belong and do more for one another.

Would you like to share your immigrant story with us?

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.



Join us at our next General Membership Meeting

Tuesday September 7, 2021 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Immigrant Story Guest Speaker: Phillip Harris

[Click here to Join](#)

Meeting ID: 867 8744 7524

Passcode: 312248

About Philip Harris - WSDOT, Immigrant Story Speaker



Philip Harris is a Transit Integration Planner in WSDOT's Regional Transit Coordination Division working on mass transit projects in the central Puget Sound region. Philip's work focuses on integrating safe and attractive access to high-capacity transit as well as community development and urban design around mass transit stations.

Prior to joining WSDOT in 2017, Philip worked in transit planning and urban design in Portland, Charlotte, Atlanta, and Bellevue. At WSDOT, Philip has just completed a two-year term as the Vice Chair of the Northwest Diversity Advisory Group

A native of Leicester, UK whose parents who immigrated from the Caribbean, Philip grew up curious about architecture, cities, and mass transit systems. He has a master's degree in City Planning from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta and a bachelor's degree in Geography from Bulmershe College, University of Reading, UK. Since emigrating to the US, he has lived in New York City, Portland, Atlanta, and Charlotte and loves to travel and explore new places. Philip and his wife live in West Seattle.

Volunteer Opportunity:

Webpage & Social Media Coordinator



WIN is actively seeking a webpage and social media volunteer to manage and maintain our website up to date and announce events, resources, and highlights on our social media platforms. For this opportunity, one person would be responsible for both the social media platforms (Facebook and LinkedIn) and the website or this position can be split up between two people, with one individual responsible for the WIN website and one individual responsible for our social media accounts. If you or anyone you know is seeking to develop or advance their online communications skillset or is looking to become further involved in WIN, please contact us with your interest or any questions you may have at WIN@OFM.wa.gov or juliec@OMWBE.wa.gov.

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](#)



Find us on Youtube.com!

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