



# WASHINGTON IMMIGRANT NETWORK

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

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

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## Message from WIN's New Chairperson- Christina Pourarien

Greetings!

I am so thrilled, humbled, and honored to take part of the Washington Immigrant Network Business Resource Group leadership team. It is my great pleasure to serve as your current chairperson.

In late 2020, I remembered attending my first WIN Meet and Greet session and I instantly felt that I finally belonged and connected. I continued to attend WIN's events and realized there are not a lot of stories about our many diverse cultures and ethnicities in the media. I learned a lot from members sharing their own immigrant stories and knew I belonged. Late 2021, Joanne Lee, previous WIN chairperson, asked me if I had an interest in volunteering my time and if I would like to share my immigrant story. I immediately was so humbled and honored for her asking me that I said yes, without realizing what I would be volunteering to do. I had this overwhelming feeling of belonging and connected with other members from Central and South America, North Africa, Sub Sahara Africa, Mexico, Caribbean, East & Southeast Asian, and Europe.

WIN gave me a purpose as each member had shared their unconditional support, showed how they cared for each other by opening their hearts and ears, listened to understand instead of judging. I felt like I belonged again and was no longer invisible. WIN members also helped me prepare for my current leadership role at ESD to become an inclusive leader that transforms teams and individuals with love, compassion, and empathy while considering individuals on their own unique skills and perspectives.

As the WIN chairperson this year, I commit to provide support to our immigrant communities, build strong partnerships with other Business Resource Groups, and promote WIN BRG.

If you are curious or feel you could benefit from our group, are an immigrant or ally, have a parent who is an immigrant, or want to learn more about our community, we encourage you to join us! Our group embraces you with open arms and hearts.

We also collect Immigrant Stories to highlight in our newsletter, social media, YouTube, and website. If you are interested in sharing your story, please visit this [page](#). We would love to read your story.

We also provide an opportunity for you to share your story during our membership meetings. If you are interested in sharing your story, please contact us at [WIN@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:WIN@ofm.wa.gov). We would love to meet you and listen to your story!

WIN welcomes you to attend our general members meeting on [August 2, 2022](#), from 12pm to 1pm via Zoom.

Best wishes,

Christina (Pronouns: She/Her)-  
Washington Immigrant Network Chair

Please visit our [website](#) for more information.



[See Christina's entire story at WIN's Immigrant Stories page.](#)

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## Upcoming Events

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### [General Membership Meeting \(Zoom\)](#)



**Tuesday, August 2, 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.

[\*\*Click to join Zoom Meeting\*\*](#)

Meeting ID: 867 8744 7524  
Passcode: 312248

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**[Abby West Diversity Matters Day](#)**

**Wednesday, August 24**  
**11:30am – 1pm**

**Location: [Camp Murray](#), Building 80 (PRCR)**



Washington Military Department, in partnership with the Washington National Guard, is hosting the annual Abby West Diversity Matters Day to celebrate DEIA.

Representatives from Washington Immigrant Network are invited to attend and share information about the business resource group and potentially recruit other state employees to get involved.

If interested, please contact: [susie.f.lopez.mil@army.mil](mailto:susie.f.lopez.mil@army.mil)

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**Save the date!**  
**ANHPI Kickoff Celebration**



**September 13**  
**12pm-4pm**

**Washington State Capitol Lawn**

[\(Directions\)](#)

The Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Business Resource Group is planning their kick-off celebration event

Please contact Nicholas Vann at [Nicholas.vann@dahp.wa.gov](mailto:Nicholas.vann@dahp.wa.gov) or Denise Ross at [denise.ross@psp.wa.gov](mailto:denise.ross@psp.wa.gov) for more information.

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## Volunteer Opportunities

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### **Seeking WIN Social Media Coordinator**

Seeking a volunteer to manage and update WIN's [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts.



If you are interested in serving as WIN's Social Media "Guru", please contact:

[WIN@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:WIN@ofm.wa.gov)

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### **Seeking volunteers to chair the following WIN subcommittees:**

#### **Membership Outreach Chair**

The Membership Outreach Subcommittee oversees and manages WIN BRG outreach efforts through various agencies and communities. The team is responsible for coordinating outreach events and oversees all immigrant and allies' membership outreach and retention.

#### **Professional Development Chair**

The Professional Development Subcommittee provides tools and resources for WIN BRG members to grow professionally through training, webinars, conferences, books, articles, and mentorship. The Professional Development Subcommittee strives to serve WIN's members through accessible conference programming to help them grow.

**If you are interested in volunteering to serve on a subcommittee, please contact:**

[WIN@ofm.wa.gov](mailto:WIN@ofm.wa.gov)

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## Become a WIN Mentor



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](#).

## 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](mailto:WIN@ofm.wa.gov).



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**[988 Number for Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#)**



988 is a new, easy-to-remember way to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL). It's confidential, free, and available 24/7/365. People calling or texting 988 will be connected to a trained crisis counselor.

**Anyone can call or text 988 if they are experiencing:**

- Thoughts of suicide.
- Mental health crisis.
- Substance use concerns.
- Emotional distress.

People can also call or text 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

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**WASHINGTON**  
IMMIGRANT NETWORK

**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.



***Find us on Youtube.com!***

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



**Click to Follow WIN:**



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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](mailto:WIN@ofm.wa.gov).

We also encourage you to follow us on our social media links:



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