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Shilpa Tiwari appointed by Governor to WHEFA Board



SEATTLE, Wash. – Governor Inslee has appointed Shilpa Tiwari of Seattle to a four-year term on the board of the Washington Higher Education Facilities Authority (WHEFA), effective April 5.

Currently vice president of data science and engineering at the supply-chain company Shipium, Ms. Tiwari brings to WHEFA a deep commitment to education and a personal mission to promote diversity and inclusion in STEM fields.

“From science laboratories to residence halls, modernization of our educational facilities is an investment in our next generation and the development of our state.

I am eager to serve WHEFA in support of expansion and modernization of educational facilities,” Ms. Tiwari said. “I am excited about the focus on social justice and equity in all aspects of WHEFA and look forward to serving on the board for the next four years.”

Prior to joining Shipium, Ms. Tiwari worked at technology giants like Amazon, Microsoft and Siemens, leading cutting-edge software development and artificial-intelligence projects, while championing workforce well-being and creating opportunities for underrepresented segments. At Microsoft especially, she developed a diverse leadership bench through intentional hiring practices and active mentorship.

Ms. Tiwari is passionate about diversity, equity and inclusion and use of technology for community upliftment. She volunteered as a mentor at Techbridge Girls in the Seattle area and is a member of the Issaquah School District STEM advisory committee, promoting computer science education as a core curriculum.

Ms. Tiwari has a masters in science and engineering from University of Pennsylvania and a technology management degree from the university’s Wharton School (as an alumna, she facilitates the Seattle chapter of Wharton Women). She earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering from National Institute of Technology in India.

Ms. Tiwari is a first-generation immigrant and came to the United States 23 years ago. She enjoys living in the Pacific Northwest with her husband and two boys, aged 14 and 10.

“WHEFA is so fortunate to have Shilpa join our board,” said Steve Walker, WHEFA executive director. “Her practical experience in STEM education and workplaces and especially her passion for equity and inclusion will be of great benefit to our work throughout the state.”

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Since 1983, the **Washington Higher Education Facilities Authority** (www.whefa.org) has helped the state’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities to access more than \$2.5 billion in tax-exempt financing for projects such as student housing, academic and administrative buildings, sports and music facilities, and computer systems. WHEFA’s ability to obtain lower interest rates through the sale of tax-exempt bonds has saved Authority borrowers millions of dollars. The savings ultimately benefit the students of Washington State and supports the mission of the institutions. The Authority receives no regular state funding for its operations and accomplishes its work without taxpayer funding of any kind.