



CONTACT:

Margret Graham, Communications Manager
Washington Higher Education Facilities Authority
(206) 454-9058 - margret.graham@wshfc.org

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Jasmine Minato appointed by Governor to WHEFA Board



SEATTLE, Wash. – Governor Inslee has appointed Jasmine Minato of Seattle as the Washington Higher Education Facilities Authority’s newest board member, effective November 9.

She brings an extensive background in fundraising, higher-education development, and community philanthropy, with an emphasis on empowering and uplifting a diverse group of public leaders.

“At the heart of inclusive education infrastructure, I am eager to support regional campuses overcoming financial hardships patterned out by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Ms. Minato said. “It is my hope that Washington’s education ecosystems, from Seattle to Spokane, will remain resilient. I look forward to serving on the WHEFA board for the next four years.”

Most recently, as the scholarship associate advisor for the Seattle Foundation, Ms. Minato worked on a team of philanthropic advisors with a mission to empower high-impact investments led by BIPOC community leaders and stewarded resources for underrepresented college-going students in Washington.

As associate director of development at San Francisco State University, she worked on a \$150 million capital development feasibility campaign as well as on public-private initiatives to increase support for student aid. Ms. Minato previously worked in the Division of Advancement at Brown University on a comprehensive fundraising campaign designed to provide tuition relief for low- and middle-income families.

While serving on the board of directors of the San Francisco Women’s Political Committee in 2020, Ms. Minato led community-forums designed to uplift diverse public leadership and empower first-time candidates running for office, including municipal school boards and community college trustees.

Ms. Minato is a member of Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, Association of Fundraising Professionals in Seattle, and the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy - Advisors of Color Cohort 2021 with the American College of Financial Services. She earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and government/public policy analysis from the University of California, San Diego.

“We are thrilled to welcome a board member with such a wealth of experience in higher education and philanthropy, and with such a demonstrated commitment to lower-income students and their families,” said Steve Walker, WHEFA executive director. “I know WHEFA will learn a lot from her.”

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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.