

Hope, Rook (EQUITY)

From: Office of Equity <OfficeOfEquity@updates.gov.wa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 2:48 PM
To: Hope, Rook (EQUITY); EQUITY mi Connect
Subject: New Logo and Office Updates! | Office of Equity Newsletter: TEST



Welcome to the Office of Equity's Newsletter!



It's only March and we're up to so much at the Office of Equity! In this edition of the newsletter, you'll get updates about our new branding, media, and learn about how our work is progressing. Plus, we are continuing to grow as a team, so we're excited to introduce you to our new staff members!

Don't forget to stay involved with us on all our platforms: [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) & [YouTube](#).

Click here to subscribe to our newsletters!



Washington State
**OFFICE OF
EQUITY**



Office of Equity's Rebrand & New Logo

The face of any organization begins with the branding. When we first began as an office, we worked with a contractor to help us through this process. They created a great infrastructure for our beginnings. As we've grown, we recognized the need to update our branding to reflect the work as it has progressed.

With this being a huge endeavor, we'll be rolling out new branding assets throughout the year. Today we want to share our logo, monogram, and updated color palette. These items serve as a new foundation for the look and feel of our office. We are also including an explanation of our logo on our website for everyone to understand the reason behind our choices. We felt that it was another way we could showcase transparency and bring folks along the journey with us.



Click here to watch the video!

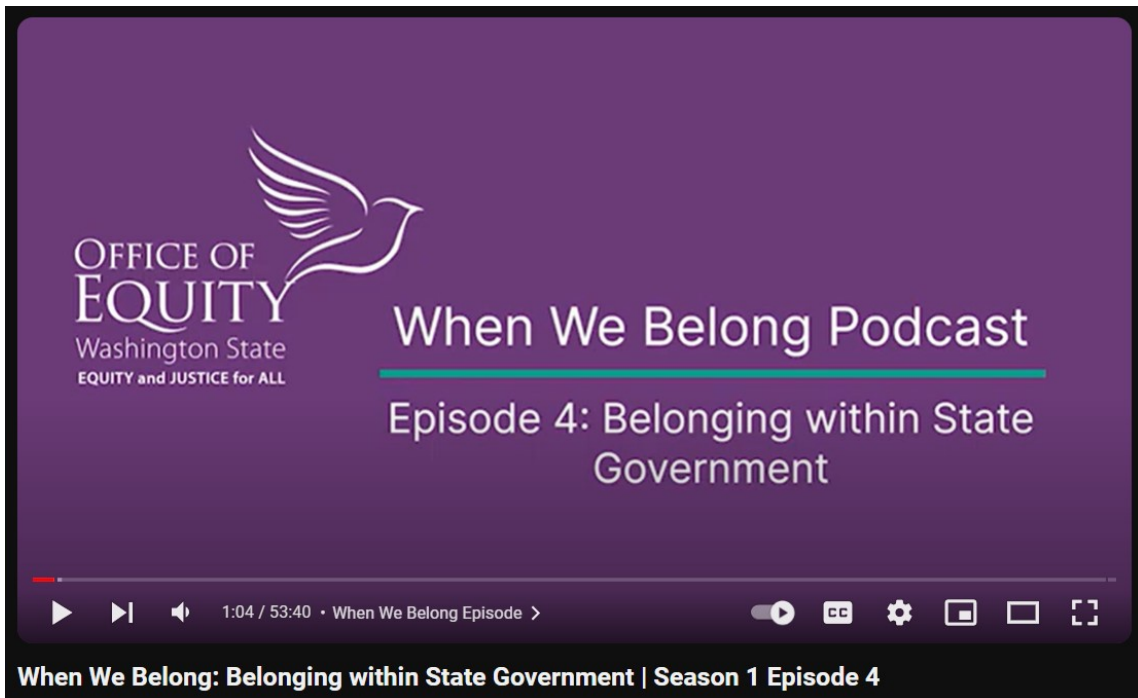


Media Updates



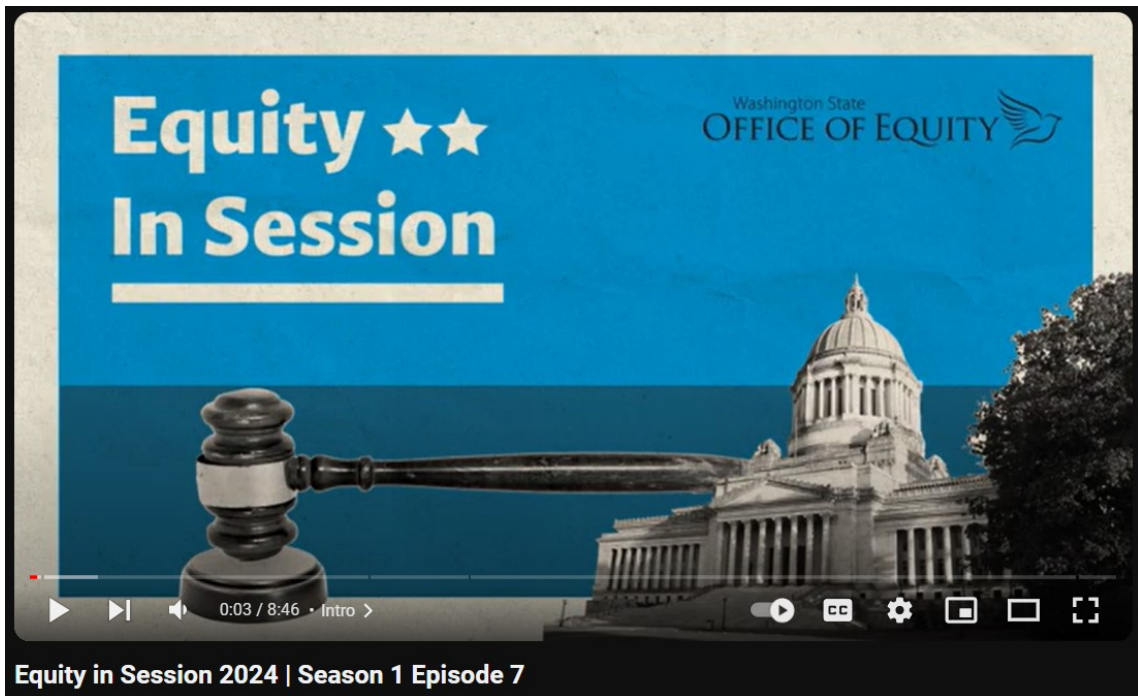
Media for our office helps us share out our work in an innovative way for government. We decided early on to incorporate video as a staple of our communications. You may have seen some of this work through our social media channels, bringing the people behind the work to the forefront. This is important to us as we establish transparency while uplifting those who work hard every day to serve Washingtonians.

Our series, *When We Belong*, brings together government employees who are working diligently to create belonging in Washington state government. Collectively, we discuss the topic of belonging- highlighting the passion to make it real in our roles and within our departments. We also tackle the barriers to belonging that we experience to pull back the veil a bit and allow the audience to understand how we are navigating those challenges. Check out our latest episode below.



Click here to watch the video!

Our series, *Equity In Session*, was created to put a personal touch on the legislative session and give information on *Bills to Watch* throughout the session. As the session has come to a close, we are delighted that this series has been impactful for the audience. We are excited to continue this series for legislative sessions and bring information with a personal perspective. Watch our last episode for the most recent session below.



Click here to watch the video!



Office Updates



Growing as an office means we must be intentional about building our framework and incorporating the expertise of our entire team. We are working to establish our strategic goals for each bench within our office and connect it to the overall goals for our office. This work is integral in guiding our path towards systems change.

We are also conducting our first staff retreat this month! We are excited to be in space with our entire team as we build and connect, work through our strategic goals, and share our plans for the year. These opportunities are necessary in any work environment but are extremely special in a remote work environment where we are not accustomed to being in space with one another daily. Stay tuned for a dynamic group photo of us all!



Directors Bench



The Director's bench has had a very productive start to 2024:

- We have cultivated unprecedented outreach initiatives with tribal leadership, fostering vital relationships and dialogue to enhance community and governmental collaboration. Our presence at the Annual Centennial Accord and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) conference for the first time underscored our commitment to understanding and addressing the unique needs and perspectives of Tribal and Indigenous communities. This initiative marks a pivotal step in our journey towards equitable governance and deeper community ties.
- Our newly formed Legislative Team hit the ground running for the 2024 legislative session! We began to build long-term relationships with legislators, other agencies, and community leaders. We advocated for several pieces of legislation and collaborated with our commission partners to highlight their legislative priorities. We created our [Equity in Session series on YouTube](#) to share information about the legislative process with the community. We are excited to continue building as we prepare for the next session and beyond!



Equity & Belonging Bench



The Shared Power and Pro-Equity Consultants have been enthusiastically reaching out to state agencies and engaging with leaders about support and understanding the most pressing agency needs around their PEAR plans. We are really energized by our conversations and have started contemplating how we can further develop enterprise-wide solutions for common barriers agencies are facing in their equity work. Here's a glance at some of the work of our consultants:

- **Rueben Otero (they/them)** has been pivotal in ensuring we have a systematic way of maximizing our consultation outreach plan and established procedures in order to deliver consistent experience to our partner agencies.
- **Jasmine Remick (she/her)** has joined **Katherine Felts (she/her)** in support of our partnership with the Department of Commerce on managing the Community Reinvestment Plan that will provide \$200 million to communities negatively affected by the War on Drugs.
- **Katrina Tuggle (she/her)** continues to build out a state government ecosystem for addressing Digital Equity alongside several directors, Tribal Liaison **iisaaksiichaa braine (he/him/bade)**, and multiple state agencies.

- **Kalimah Ujaama (she/her)** continues working closely with Washington State Patrol on addressing recruitment issues for the next generation of state troopers. **Kalimah** and Shared Power Consultant **Jean Paul (he/him)** were both instrumental in representing the Office and partnering with WIN (Washington Immigrant Network), HAPPEN (Hawaiians, Asians, and Pacific Islanders Promoting an Empowerment Network), and EAP (Employee Assistance Program) in hosting a Solidarity Gathering in the wake of global violence, which was attended by nearly 250 state employees.
- **Jean Paul** has also been instrumental in working with Office leadership and the Centre for Public Impact on convening executive leaders and community validators to create a shared vision for the future of state government centered on shared power and belonging.
- **Sabrina Njoroge (she/her)** has been diligently working on Community Compensation guidelines and is helping to ensure the program runs smoothly and meets the community's needs.
- **Rauneisha Larkins (she/her)** and **Jasmine** have been co-creating the framework for an enterprise-wide Community of Practice centered on Equity and Belonging so we can break down the silos amongst entities in addressing inequities related to the [15 Determinants of Equity](#).



The header for the Innovation & Performance Bench features a blue and yellow vertical bar on the left, the text "Innovation & Performance Bench" in bold black font, an icon of a person with a gear and a target, and a green vertical bar on the right with a white dome icon.

The Innovation & Performance Bench is excited to announce that we have reached our goal of having a complete team! Our amazing staff brings to the Office diverse professional, technical, and lived experiences. We invite you to connect with one of our Equity Accountability Analysts, **Bradley Loetzke (he/him)** and **Aylis Lind (they/them)**, our Equity Impact Analyst, **Isabella Rivera (she/her)**, and our Spatial Equity Analyst, **EJ Slager (they/them)**.

Our team has spent the first few weeks of 2024 laying a strong foundation and building our strategy and framework for accountability. We look forward to sharing more details with you about how the Innovation & Performance Bench will support the development of a statewide framework for true Accountability in the near future.



The header for the Access & Accessibility Bench features a yellow and black vertical bar on the left, the text "Access & Accessibility Bench" in bold black font, an icon of a calendar with a key, and a green vertical bar on the right with a white dome icon.

The Access and Accessibility Team is looking forward to an exciting and productive 2024. Access & Accessibility is a newly formed bench within the Office of Equity with a commitment to helping Washington state become a shining example of forward thinking and inclusive practices around broad and bold access. Our initial focuses will be around three main buckets of work: language accessibility, disability

accessibility, and digital accessibility. Our intent is to take a holistic approach to access, working with community, state agencies, and employees across the enterprise to identify barriers, best practices, and impactful resources so all Washingtonians can meaningfully engage and access state resources.



New Staff



As we embark on the conclusion of the first quarter of 2024, (time really does seem to fly) the Office of Equity continues to grow. In February we welcomed to the office **Sarah Bisson (she/her)**, as our Business and Financial Analyst. Later in March we had **Beth Winstead (she/her)** join the team as our Culture and Belonging Administrator.

We are pleased to have two more individuals bring their skills and talents to assist in the important work of providing equity for all in Washington state!

Thank You!



Thank you for taking the time to delve into this update from Washington State's Office of Equity.

If you would like to stay plugged in with us, [subscribe to our Office Newsletter](#). If you want to hear from the Office of Equity more often, [we have our Daily Flow that goes out every business day with powerful quotes based on the monthly theme](#). Follow us on social media and be alongside us as we work together to make Washington a Belonging State.

Connect now so you don't miss anything. 😊

EQUITY and JUSTICE for ALL

Stay plugged in with the Office of Equity:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:
[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Help](#)

This email was sent to Email Address using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Office of the Governor / Office of Financial Management · PO Box 40002 · Olympia, WA · 98504-0002

