



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

washingtonimmigrantnetwork.org

Raquel Rice (Abellán Villegas)

Immigrant Story



My name is Raquel Rice (Abellán Villegas). I was born and raised in Costa Rica. Naturally, I grew up around music, noise, fiestas and going to the beach. I had the most wonderful upbringing surrounded by uncles, aunties and lots and lots of cousins. I had the opportunity to travel to the US and visit Florida, New York and Connecticut while I was a teenager. My father's best friend was an awesome Canadian man that lived in Winsted Connecticut and for this reason I was very familiar with American culture.

I met my sweet amazing husband at the age of 17 while he was serving a mission in Costa Rica and we got married 2 years after we met. We moved to the US in 1992 but it was very difficult for me to be away from my family and the beach. YES... I know Washington has beaches but they aren't exactly ideal for swimming year round. After a year of being in the US we moved back to Costa Rica where we stayed for 14 years.

My 3 children were born in Costa Rica and after my youngest was born we decided we wanted our children to have the opportunity to grow up in the US. So, we sold our house and packed all our belongings and moved to Bellevue in 2008. I absolutely love Washington State.

I really enjoy living in a multicultural family. We celebrate Costa Rican holidays and we keep traditions like Noche Buena, tamales on Christmas day and singing the Costa Rican national anthem on September 14th. I taught my children to respect and love Costa Rica as their birth country as well as the US as their residency home country. We love the 4th of July, Thanksgiving and Halloween.

I have lived and worked in several countries like; China and England however, Washington is my home and I am very fortunate to live here.

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.

Upcoming WIN Events

[WIN-Public Speaking Group \(30 Minutes\)](#)

Thursday, November 18, 2021

11:30 AM 12:00 PM

Hosts: [Gwen and Diana](#), Professional Development Co-Chairs



This is a supportive and inclusive environment where people should feel comfortable engaging in speaking and evaluation activities. Our goal is to help develop the professional skill of effectively speaking in front of groups of people in meetings or audiences.

If you would like to practice public speaking, please sign up for Washington Immigrant Network's "WIN-Public Speaking Group". The schedule will depend on the number of people we have signed up for each date. Please have a two-minute speech prepared that you would like to receive feedback on. Feedback will be provided by those who are in attendance through an objective evaluation.

[Click here to join the meeting via Teams](#)

Or call in (audio only)
(564) 999-2000
Phone Conference ID: 266 365 528#

(No General Membership Meeting in December)



Volunteer Opportunity- Videographer

WIN is seeking a videographer to assist with an upcoming project. If interested, please email: joanne.lee@des.wa.gov

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November Holidays & Events Share Your Special Holiday!

- 4th: [Diwali](#)
- 5th: [Guy Fawkes' Day](#)
- 11th: [Veterans Day](#)
- 13th: [Ides of November](#)
- 25th: [Thanksgiving](#)
- 28th: [Hanukkah](#)

WIN would like to invite you to share with us the holidays and observances you celebrate in your culture. We want to showcase these significant celebrations on our website and social media. If you are interested in sharing your cultural celebrations with WIN, please email us at WIN@ofm.wa.gov.

[November Holidays and Observances](#)

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](#).



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.

We also encourage you to follow us on our social media links provided below.



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