

Out and about: Creating connections. Building belonging.

April 2023 -- Highlights from WorkSource Pacific Mountain Region.

Excerpt from Ismaila Maidadi's EC Director's Message, April 2023.

In mid-April, **EC senior leaders visited WorkSource centers in the Pacific Mountain Region**; and joining us were Marie Burrows, ESD director of human resources, Maribeth Sapinoso, chief information officer for ESD, and Christa Castanon, WorkSource IT systems manager. Our visits gave us the opportunity to hear from staff and supervisors about current challenges – some that are particular to their local areas and others that are shared across many of our centers.

From WorkSource Mason County, we learned of their strong working relationships with the tribes and the demand for Spanish translation and more bi-lingual staff. At WorkSource Grays Harbor in Aberdeen, the team expressed scheduling concerns and challenges in meeting customer needs. The WorkSource Thurston team requested more accessible labor market data and WorkSource Lewis County in Centralia requested a localized WIOA 101 training. It was exciting to hear that their team wants to submit a proposal for the future dislocated worker program and that the ESD IT services team is working on a white paper focused on support for WorkSource offices.



EC leadership visit on April 19 to WorkSource Mason County. Above, left to right: standing are Gustavo Aviles, Jeff Maris, Maribeth Sapinoso, Christa Castanon, Sean Wiley, Anita Davis, Jenna Argot, Yolanda Hewitt; and kneeling are Alberto Isordia, Ismaila Maidadi, and Chris Skinner.



EC leadership visit on April 20 to WorkSource Grays Harbor. Above, left to right: Marie Burrows, Christina Pitts, William Westmoreland, Alisa Shaffner, Sam Mitchell, Alberto Isiordia, Catherine Ayres, Ismaila Maidadi, and Maribeth Sapinosa.

As we meet with each location to listen and learn, EC leaders are taking it all in and working to actively address the challenges that are brought forward by each team. This is just the start. We have office tours planned for the balance of the year; and in the coming weeks and months, I hope to meet more of you in person. Our next road trip is in early June, when we will head to WorkSource centers in Wenatchee, Okanogan (Omak), Moses Lake, Mattawa and Kittitas.

Remember, if you have ideas, needs or recommendations you want us to hear and take action on, you can always use the [EC Virtual Suggestion Box](#).

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