

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the vital role minority and women-owned businesses have in not only our daily lives but also the significant contributions these businesses make to our state's economy; and

**WHEREAS**, minority and women-owned businesses are often under-utilized in government contracting and procurement; and

**WHEREAS**, with our economy recovering, our investments in minority and women-owned and operated firms will help create jobs, strengthen families and build ladders of opportunity in underserved communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises (OMWBE) has been the lead agency in certifying minority and women-owned businesses so they may obtain state contracts and procurement opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, OMWBE has partnered with agencies like the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Small Business Administration, Sound Transit and the Washington State Procurement Technical Assistance Center to educate minority and women-owned businesses on the benefits of certification; and

**WHEREAS**, OMWBE is launching a campaign to travel the state of Washington to educate and certify minority and women-owned businesses;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim January 20-24, 2014 as

### ***Minority and Women-owned Business Week***

in Washington, and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.



Signed this 31<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2013

Handwritten signature of Jay Inslee in blue ink, positioned to the right of the gold seal.

Governor Jay Inslee