

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, we recognize the vital role minority and women-owned businesses play in our daily lives and the significant contributions they make to Washington's economy; and

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

WHEREAS, a recent report by the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, chaired by Senator Maria Cantwell, showed that women-owned businesses face challenges obtaining fair access to capital, obtaining equal access to federal contracts, and receiving relevant business training and counseling; and

WHEREAS, as our economy continues to recover, investments in minority and women-owned and operated firms will help create jobs, strengthen families and improve opportunities 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 across the state, including the Washington State Department of Transportation, Small Business Administration, Washington State Native Procurement Technical Center, Washington State Procurement Technical Assistance Center, and Sound Transit to educate minority and women-owned businesses on the benefits of certification; and

WHEREAS, OMWBE is continuing a campaign of traveling the state to educate and certify minority and women-owned businesses;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim January 19-24, 2015 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 30th day of December, 2014

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

