

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Andrew Estep, CAE  
Executive Director  
Washington State PTA  
(253) 214-7410  
[www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org)

## Washington State PTA Hires Consulting Firm to Facilitate DEI Audit

**Tacoma, WA (January 25, 2022):**

Washington State PTA (WSPTA) is delighted to have hired AV Consulting to conduct a diversity, equity, and inclusion audit and to partner with WSPTA in the important work of examining our traditions and practices and inviting more voices and perspectives into our service. This audit is the next step in examining the association, as directed by our membership. It will help us to identify and remove barriers to families throughout all levels of the association.

Washington State PTA convened the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force in Spring of 2021 and charged it to review the scope of work needed to diversify membership, provide better service to families and children, and to increase the leadership pipeline, specifically among PTA leaders of color and those representing families of students with disabilities and representing the LGBTQ community.

The AV Consulting team includes Alma Villegas, Eliza Arai Carrington and Mary Fertakis who intend to lead this approach through the primary lens of race and conduct a comprehensive engagement process that will focus mainly on Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) and underrepresented communities. The information aims to uncover the degree to which these audiences feel included and valued, along with how to best remove barriers to participation across the association's programs. What the consulting team collects will be used to review current WSPTA practices and policies and will inform actionable recommendations. This important work will be guided by what we hear from parents, especially those facing the biggest disparities in the academic outcomes of their children.

In recognizing that the work we do to serve the communities and families of Washington state must be rooted in authentic connections and the building of relationships, we are better able to provide services, programs, and advocacy that provide meaningful community connections and authentically meet their needs.

It is our hope that this audit provides the launch and trajectory we will need to improve our service to children in Washington state.

###

---

***About Washington State PTA:** Washington State PTA is the state's oldest and largest child advocacy organization founded in 1905 by Abby Williams Hill of Tacoma, an artist who saw the need for an organization to support Washington's children. Thanks to her leadership and vision—and current members who continue to carry her vision forward—Washington State PTA has been a leading voice for children in Washington for more than 110 years. To learn more about the Washington State PTA, please visit [www.wastatepta.org](http://www.wastatepta.org).*

15 Oregon Avenue, Suite 202, Tacoma, WA 98409-7463 (253) 214-7410