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Contact:
Jessica de Barros, Executive Director
Jessica.debarros@k12.wa.us
Office: 360.972.5672

New Charter School Commissioner Appointed

Carla Rogenmuser, appointed by Governor Inslee, to serve on the 11-member Commission, the state's only non-district and statewide charter public school authorizer

Olympia, WA – The Washington State Charter School Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce the appointment of Carla Rogenmuser by Governor Jay Inslee. Commissioners are appointed to 4-year terms by state lawmakers. The 11-member Commission also includes participation by designees from the State Board of Education and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Commission is the main authorizer of charter public schools in Washington and is an independent state agency. In our state, charter public schools are tuition-free, open-to-all, public schools operating as non-profits within a strict accountability framework that grants them additional flexibility in serving students.

“On behalf of our fellow commissioners and our staff, we are grateful for Carla’s commitment to serve on the Washington State Charter School Commission,” **said Commission Chair, Christine Varela.** “Carla’s record of service and her deep experience in pursuing access to opportunity for all public school students will directly support our mission of upholding a rigorous and comprehensive oversight framework for charter public schools in Washington.”

Before putting down roots in the Pacific Northwest, Carla grew up in rural Pennsylvania Dutch Country. She was a 2019 WA Charters Aspiring Leaders Fellow and completed the University of Michigan MicroMasters Program of Leading Educational Innovation and Improvement in 2021. Carla is currently serving as Board Chair and President of the charter parent-led nonprofit Washington State Family Advocacy Board and works in state level education policy. Her focus is on equitable practices sector wide while holding a high standard of accountability in service to those traditionally underserved by the education system.

The Washington State Charter School Commission is the [main authorizer](#) of charter public schools in Washington and is an independent state agency. It was formed with the mission of creating a rigorous and comprehensive proposal process for qualified non-profits who wish to open a charter public school. The

agency also monitors and provides oversight holding schools and charter public school boards accountable to high standards of quality. The Commission was formed following the passage of Initiative 1240 by state voters in 2012, which created the charter public school system in our state. In Washington, all charter public schools are non-sectarian, open to all students, tuition-free, publicly-funded, staffed by certified teachers and held accountable to the same state and national standards as traditional public schools.

To learn more about the Commission, its responsibilities and charter public schools in Washington, please visit our website: <https://charterschool.wa.gov>

About Washington State’s Charter School Commission

Washington State’s Charter School Commission was formed with the mission of creating a rigorous and comprehensive proposal process and to hold charters and their school boards accountable to high standards of quality. The Commission is an independent state agency that exists to authorize and oversee high quality public charter schools and their boards throughout Washington with an emphasis on schools designed to expand opportunities for at-risk students, providing leadership and oversight that is consistent with national principles and standards of charter school authorizers and the provisions of Washington’s charter school law.

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