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Sergio Garcia appointed by Governor to WHEFA board



SEATTLE, Wash. – Governor Inslee has appointed Sergio Garcia of Yakima as the Washington Higher Education Facilities Authority’s newest board member, effective May 14.

Garcia has a diverse and robust background in affordable housing development, civil rights advocacy, and public service. Currently an affordable housing developer with Catholic Charities Housing Services, his extensive experience includes roles with the Office of Rural and Farmworker Housing, the Washington State Human Rights Commission, and the Northwest Justice Project.

Garcia is a board member with both the Washington Economic Development Finance Authority (WEDFA) and the Yakima County Planning Commission. His deep familiarity with bond financing, gained through his housing development work and tenure on the WEDFA board, underscores his expertise in public infrastructure and economic development.

“I am eager to support the creation of state-of-the-art educational facilities that will enhance learning experiences and opportunities for students across Washington,” said Garcia. “Serving on this board will allow me to combine my passion for community development with my commitment to educational excellence.”

Throughout his career, Garcia has managed multi-family affordable housing projects and facilitated major civil rights settlements, acquiring a deep understanding of public financing and project management. His work has secured and developed millions of dollars for housing projects, ensuring their successful and efficient completion.

Originally from a bilingual farmworker household, Garcia earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Washington. He lives in his hometown of Yakima.

"We are excited to welcome Sergio," said Steve Walker, executive director of WHEFA. "His passion, expertise, and dedication to community service will be instrumental in guiding our organization toward achieving its goals and making a lasting positive impact. We look forward to his contributions and leadership."

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Since 1983, the **Washington Higher Education Facilities Authority** (www.whefa.org) has helped the state’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities to access more than \$2.7 billion in tax-exempt financing for projects such as student housing, academic and administrative buildings, sports and music facilities, and computer systems. WHEFA’s ability to obtain lower interest rates through the sale of tax-exempt bonds has saved Authority borrowers millions of dollars. The savings ultimately benefit the students of Washington State and supports the mission of the institutions. The Authority receives no regular state funding for its operations and accomplishes its work without taxpayer funding of any kind.