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Habitat for Humanity leader named to state Housing Finance Commission

SEATTLE, Wash.—Governor Jay Inslee has appointed Dr. Michone Preston, CEO of Habitat for Humanity Washington State, to the Washington State Housing Finance Commission.

Preston will immediately start her term on the Commission, joining her fellow Commissioners at their monthly meeting in Seattle on November 21.

"We are excited to welcome Michone to the Commission after many years of partnering with her and Habitat for Humanity for affordable homeownership," said Nicole Bascomb-Green, chair of the Housing Finance Commission.

<u>Habitat for Humanity</u> is an international nonprofit organization founded on the "sweat equity" model of building homes using the labor of volunteers alongside Habitat homeowners, who purchase the homes with affordable mortgages.



As CEO of <u>Habitat for Humanity Washington State</u>, a collaboration of 25 Habitat affiliates statewide, Preston oversees advocacy and helps members access training and financial resources, including a capital investment program in partnership with the Housing Finance Commission. Preston previously served as CEO of Habitat for Humanity in Spokane.

She has also served on countless housing and community committees including the Legislative Homeownership Disparities Workgroup and the Governor's Affordable Housing Advisory Board, which she chaired.

She holds a BA from Gonzaga University as well as an MA and an EdD from St. Mary's University of Minnesota, and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive. She resides and farms in rural south Spokane and Douglas counties.

As a Commissioner between now and the end of her term in June 2027, Preston will help to oversee programs that have assisted more than 100,000 people to become homeowners and financed more than 133,000 affordable apartments statewide.

"The Commission is paramount to Washington's success in resolving our housing and homelessness crisis while advancing racial equity," said Preston. "I am honored to have been selected to serve and am dedicated to access to affordable housing for all Washingtonians."

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The <u>Washington State Housing Finance Commission</u> is a self-supporting state agency that works to provide equitable access to capital through strong partnerships and innovative financing to create and sustain affordable rental housing, homeownership, and community spaces across Washington State.