

# JOHN DOUGLASS OKAMOTO

## SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Repositioned and strengthened organization under financial distress and adversarial attacks to an offensive and growth position. Crafted and implemented a strategy to increase funding for basic education for the benefit of over 1 million students.
- Negotiated a statewide consensus, and successfully lobbied passage of two statewide transportation-funding packages. Developed nationally recognized “street utility” program, an innovative financing mechanism for street construction and maintenance. Developed partnership to implement \$5.5 billion mobility plan the state’s most congested area. Initiated three “mega-projects” to improve mobility and safety in Washington.
- Rejuvenated large bureaucracies into a high performance, customer service oriented departments. Fundamentally changed relationship with labor unions after decades of adversarial communication to collaborative problem solving approach in a workforce of 10,000 employees. Transformed work environment of 10,000 employee organization to value diversity. Received international recognition for system and organizational reforms.
- Presented and published in national and international forums on topics ranging from context sensitive design, innovative transportation financing, work force diversity, reinventing government, and change management.
- Awards and recognitions:
  - 2006 Top Fifty Trendsetters, Public Works Magazine
  - 2007 Public Employee of the Year, King County Municipal League
  - 2008 Silver Knight, National Management Association
  - 2009 Top Contributor, Northwest Asian Weekly Foundation
  - 2010 Japanese American Leadership Delegation to Japan

## WORK HISTORY

- **Executive Director**, Washington Education Association, May 2008 – January 2014

Led and managed nationally recognized statewide professional education and advocacy association of 82,000 members. Managed healthcare trust with \$850m annual gross revenues, and 125,000 participants and positioning program for the Affordable Care Act.

- **Chief Administrative Office**, Port of Seattle, January 2003 – May 2008

Oversaw key departments including Public Affairs, International Tourism, Government Relations, Economic Trade and Business Development, Human Resources, Labor Relations, Regional Transportation Planning, Facilities, Engineering, Construction Services and newly created Office of Social Responsibility.

The Port of Seattle is a multi-functional, special purpose district with over \$321 million in operating revenues and \$1.6 billion in net assets, including Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in passengers), marine port (ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in customer service, and 7<sup>th</sup> in total value of trade), cruise ship terminals (41% increase in cruise visits in 2003), recreational and fishing boat marinas, convention facilities and World Trade Center.

- **Regional Administrator, Assistant Secretary**, Washington State Department of Transportation, July 1996 - January 2003

Directed planning, design, construction and operation of interstate and state highways in the states 13 most populated county area. 2,500 employees. \$2.2 billion biennial budget.

- **Engineering Director**, City of Seattle November 1994 - July 1996

Directed and managed public works functions, including solid waste, recycling, waste water collection utility, newly created storm water utility, engineering services, and transportation. 1,100 employees. \$310 million annual operating budget. \$250 million six-year capital program.

- **Human Resource Director**, City of Seattle September 1991 - November 1994

Directed human resource policies and programs for the 10,000 employees in the City of Seattle. Functional responsibilities included labor relations, classification/compensation, employment, diversity/affirmative action programs, HRIS, training, industrial insurance, safety, and benefits.

## **EDUCATION**

- Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Business 2011, 2012
- Harvard University  
John F. Kennedy School of Government, Program for Senior Executives in State and Local Government 1988
- Master of Public Administration  
University of Washington 1979
- Bachelor of Arts, Psychology  
University of Washington 1976

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

- Board Member, American Public Works Association, 2005 – 2008
- Regional Vice-President, National Council of State Education Associations, 2011-2013

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- Board Member: Seattle Retirement, Japan-America Society, Trade Development Alliance, Seattle Aquarium Society, Mountains to Sound Greenway, Leadership Tomorrow, Executive Development Institute
- Board Chair, Bakke University
- Adjunct Faculty, City University – China MBA, 2005 - 2009