



# Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **CHRISTOPHER ALEJANO TAPPED TO JOIN STATE'S WORKFORCE BOARD**

OLYMPIA—Christopher Alejano has joined the state's Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and represents target populations on the 12-member board. The Workforce Board focuses on building a quality workforce in Washington, evaluates the performance of the state's key workforce programs, and partners with industry to ensure a supply of highly skilled workers.

Alejano, who holds a master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies from the University of Washington, serves as the Director of Education for the Technology Access Foundation (TAF). The foundation's partner school, TAF Academy, was founded in 1996 to help connect more youth of color to STEM-related fields of study and careers, and is co-managed by Federal Way Public Schools.

"It's a privilege to be appointed to the Workforce Board and I'm very excited to dig into the work," Alejano said. "I hope to use my experiences at TAF, working with youth of color and other underrepresented populations, to inform statewide K-12, higher education, and workforce development efforts that will further help these target populations realize their educational and career aspirations."

Alejano has a unique background that spans the entire education system, from the local to the federal level, including early learning, K-12, and postsecondary education. He staffed the Early Learning and Children's Services Committee in the State House of Representatives and served as former Governor Chris Gregoire's policy advisor for Higher Education and Workforce Development. At the federal level, Alejano worked in the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement as a Martin Luther King Jr. Scholar. He is also a former kindergarten teacher.

"Chris Alejano is both articulate and passionate about helping Washington school children make a meaningful connection to their education," said Cindy Zehnder, Workforce Board chair. "He's a great advocate for helping strengthen partnerships between the business world and students, especially in STEM, making science and math come alive through real-world experience."

*The Workforce Board is a Governor-appointed body representing a partnership of nine voting members from business, labor, and government. Additional non-voting members also participate. The Workforce Board advises the Governor and Legislature on workforce development policy, ensures the state's workforce services and programs work together and evaluates the performance of Washington's key workforce programs.*