

Staff Spotlight

FEATURING HEATHER CHARD



In this issue, we're proud to spotlight our Government Relations Administrative Assistant, Heather Chard. Heather joined WASA in November 2023.

Heather is efficient and proficient in her work, but she also knows how to laugh and have fun. She is really good at anticipating what I (or others) need and she is the ultimate team player, always being one of the first to volunteer to assist a colleague.

—Dan Steele
Assistant Executive Director, Government Relations

What is your role at WASA?

I am the Government Relations Administrative Assistant for Dan Steele but jump in wherever needed.

What does your job entail?

My main duties consist of helping with *TWIO* (*This Week in Olympia*), help with coordinating Leg & Finance Committee meetings and SIRS Board meetings, upload weekly podcasts created by Dan Steele, maintain the Government Relations and SIRS part of the WASA website, help create and deliver the SIRS Salary Survey, distribute mail and process all WASA deposits, assist the production team with upcoming conferences, and help wherever needed.

What do you like most about your job?

The culture! I love how we all band together whenever or however. Although most of my work is remote, I still feel incredibly connected to my team. I feel valued, needed, and motivated at WASA. I love what we do, and I love knowing my job positively impacts our K-12.

How has WASA changed since you were hired?

Even though I have been at WASA for less than a year, I have seen many changes. The consistent want and need to be better for our community is exciting and motivating to me, our team, and to the WASA members.

What were you doing before being hired at WASA?

I was working at the Nisqually Red Wind Casino as a Graphic Designer. I had been at the casino for eight years when the opportunity to work for WASA came. I was nervous to leave such a great gig but also knew I wanted to do

more and feel like I was giving back in some way. I took a chance on WASA and that has been the best decision.

What do you like to do when you aren't working?

Most of my time outside of work is being with my family. Aside from family time, I take photos and have turned it into a fun hobby. I enjoy taking photos for dancers, sports, and portraits.

Best vacation you've been to?

About 10 years ago we packed all five of us, two adults and three little boys, up in my old Chevy Blazer. We spent four days exploring the 101 Loop around the Olympic Peninsula. It was amazing!

Where's your favorite place in the world?

Home. I love being home with my people. If not at home, I love being in the sun.

Reflect a bit on your professional mentor.

One person that comes to mind was my first Manager at the Red Wind Casino. Melissa and I started around the same time, and she took me under her wing. Prior to working with Melissa, I was scared of speaking in front of a group, and you wouldn't catch me doing any sort of trainings, orientations, Emceeing, or anything that involved being the center of attention. Only a year into my role my manager left the casino, and I was able to take over her role and my role at the same time. I confidently conducted all new hire orientations, conducted all company trainings, planned and emceed all recognition events, and banquets. She taught me a lot and I appreciate her leadership and willingness to teach me be the best version of myself.

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