

Staff Spotlight

FEATURING DOMINIQUE WILSON



In this issue, we're proud to spotlight our Executive Assistant, Dominique Wilson. She joined WASA in September 2024.

Dominique brings more than positive energy to WASA—she brings a deep sense of purpose.

Her sincere appreciation for public education and equity aligns perfectly with our mission. For Dominique, this is more than a job; it's a chance to support and be part of meaningful work that makes a real difference for school district leaders across the state as they serve and educate the students in our schools.

—Joel Aune,
WASA Executive Director

What is your role at WASA?

I am the Executive Assistant.

What does your job entail?

It's a broad spectrum: A lot of emails, planning meetings and events, customer service for WASA members, board members, and region presidents. Plus, all things honorary awards and scholarships.

What do you like most about your job?

I really like getting to interact with the membership and the face-to-face interactions of board meetings and conferences. I enjoy being a part of the helpful aspects WASA offers—the moments where seemingly unimportant emails come to fruition to make a real difference and you can genuinely feel like you helped somebody.

How has WASA changed since you were hired?

There is going to be a lot of exciting, new changes soon with two positions of leadership, and I feel there is a lot of responsibility and growth for my position that will come with that.

What were you doing before being hired at WASA?

Community Liaison at Tumwater SD.

What is your favorite memory at WASA?

I remember when I hadn't even officially started yet, and all my coworkers invited me to eat as a way to get to know everybody. They extended the olive branch to me without even knowing me, and that set the precedent for my work here.

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

I love being at home with my family and animals. Just being outside and taking care of my things and dreaming of the possibilities and future brings me a lot of joy.

Best vacation you've been to?

I took a trip with my family for Spring Break two years ago, from New York to Florida. We visited several historical sites along the way and then we ended the trip with DisneyWorld. I loved Washington DC. We went to a play in DC, and I found an unrealized love for art galleries. The food and the history was so impressive!

Where's your favorite place in the world?

I'm going to say home because I love the landscape, the people that are there, the atmosphere. All my things are there.

Reflect a bit on your professional mentor.

Shawn Batstone: Shawn saw something in me that I didn't see in myself. When I didn't think I was capable or had anything special to offer, he opened doors, pulled back a chair, and gave me a seat at the table. That opened so many opportunities, work-wise and in discovering another part of myself I hadn't tapped into, given that I had been a stay-at-home mom. Shawn's constant encouragement and humility to treat everyone around him as equals is inspiring. He has such a collaborative, open policy that really helped my confidence. I thrived pretty quickly under his mentorship because he created that atmosphere. I owe a whole lot to Shawn Batstone.

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