

**Deborah Howell – Director of Programs
Washington Women’s Employment & Education**

Deborah Howell came from the for-profit world of retail sales and human resources management to work for Washington Women's Employment & Education.

Howell joined WWEE in 1997 as an employment specialist, matching WWEE participants with internships and jobs. Her experience as a personnel manager helped her meet the needs of WWEE participants and the companies who hired them. She was promoted to director of employment services in 2002 and then director of programs in 2003.

WWEE's mission of breaking the cycle of poverty through education and life skills meshes well with Howell's personal philosophy. "It adds value to my life and fits into my core values as a human being and a mom."

Before joining WWEE, Howell worked for Wal-Mart in Moscow, Idaho, as a personnel manager and as a material logistic office manager for the Goodwill Games held in Seattle in 1990.

Howell earned a bachelor's degree from Washington State University in sociology with an emphasis on organizational communication and a Master of Art's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix.

In the community, Howell represents WWEE by providing training and information to community and business partners. She is Co-Chair of the Local Area Planning Committee (LAP) and recently served as chair of the Displaced Homemakers State Advisory Board. Howell is also a member of Community Jobs, a partnership with five non-profit organizations and the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, which offers paid work experience internships to qualified low-income individuals.