

Robin J. Lester – Chief Executive Officer
Washington Women's Employment & Education



Robin J. Lester is passionate about helping low income women and men break the cycle of poverty to become self sufficient. Since 2001, Lester has been the chief executive officer of Washington Women's Employment and Education. WWEE offers education and training to low-income participants leaving welfare and entering the workforce in King and Pierce County. As the CEO of WWEE, Lester leads a staff of 22 to gain community support and help participants of the program learn computer skills, gain self esteem and learn essential career and life management skills.

Lester was the recipient of the Executive Alliance 2008 Leadership Award given to an outstanding executive who is dedicated to advancing the non-profit sector through exemplary leadership.

Lester earned a bachelor's degree in business administration, studying marketing and finance. Her first career was in finance and sales for a wide variety of industries, including media, lumber and transportation.

Later in life, Lester attended law school, graduating in 1992 from McGeorge School of Law at University of the Pacific in San Francisco.

In 1992, Lester moved to Seattle and began her practice in family and employment law becoming involved with pro bono work early in her career. Before joining WWEE, Lester was the director of legal services for the King County Bar Association. While at the Bar Association, the Legal Services Programs received the prestigious ABA Harrison Tweed National Award for the outstanding national pro bono program of the year.

Lester has worked with community-based boards, commissions and task forces over the past 17 years in the Puget Sound area and currently sits on the Pierce County Workforce Development Council, including their Executive Committee and the Business and Job Seeker Committee; is the President of the South County Area Human Services Alliance; a member of Legislative Committee of the Pierce County Human Services Coalition and the Impact Assessment Committee of Washington Women's Foundation and was recently elected to the board of the Alliance of Nonprofits in Seattle.

