



Special Olympics Washington Appoints Mary K. Do as New President and CEO

Do's Expertise and Passion for Inclusion Will Guide Organization's New Era of Growth and Impact

December 5, 2024 – SEATTLE – Following an extensive nationwide search, Special Olympics Washington (SpecialOlympicsWashington.org) is thrilled to announce that **Mary K. Do** (pronounced “DOE”) has been named its new president and chief executive officer (CEO). Prior to the appointment, she served for four years as the organization’s chief operating officer (COO) and has been serving as interim CEO since August 2024. A veteran leader in the organization with more than two decades of service, Do brings a wealth of experience, a deep passion for the mission, and an inspiring vision for the future.

As president and CEO, Do will lead Special Olympics Washington in its mission to serve and support thousands of athletes and volunteers statewide. She will spearhead the organization’s strategic vision, focusing on delivering high-quality programs, fostering partnerships, and advocating for increased opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) across Washington.

Do’s appointment comes at a pivotal point for the organization as Special Olympics Washington prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2025, marking a milestone in its mission to empower individuals with IDD through sports, inclusive health and education programs, and community building.

“Mary’s extensive experience, deep understanding of our organization, and genuine care for our community make her the ideal leader for our athletes, volunteers and staff,” said Denny Eliason, board chair for Special Olympics Washington. “As we commemorate 50 years of transformative work and Mary at the helm, the board and I are confident in the organization’s ability to drive impactful revenue growth, expand programs and secure a sustainable future for Special Olympics Washington.”

Do joined the Special Olympics movement more than 20 years ago, beginning her journey with Special Olympics Northern California before moving home to Seattle to join Special Olympics Washington in 2004. Throughout her career, Do has contributed her expertise in philanthropy, marketing, operations and advocacy. Most recently as COO, under Do’s leadership, Special Olympics Washington implemented innovative programs that increased participation, developed partnerships with key organizations, and introduced new initiatives to strengthen its support for athletes, families, and volunteers.

As interim CEO, she swiftly prioritized direct communication and transparency with stakeholders. Her proactive and visionary approach has played a critical role in addressing organizational challenges, uncovering opportunities, and shaping a vision for a stronger, more inclusive and sustainable future.

“Serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities has been the honor of my career and I am humbled by the opportunity to lead our organization in its mission to foster inclusion in our communities,” said Do. “As in any role I have held in the Special Olympics movement, my core commitments are to strengthen partnerships and relentlessly champion initiatives that align with our mission and core values, while ensuring long-term sustainability and driving organizational growth and innovation. Central to my approach is fostering collaboration and cultivating a strong sense of community through shared purpose, creating a united team dedicated to achieving our mission.”

Do has also held positions with other Seattle-area nonprofits including serving as the director of marketing and events for the Chinatown International District Business Improvement Area (CIDBIA).

A Seattle native, Do is a commissioner with the Seattle Sports Commission and served as a board member for Sound Generations. She supports, advises and/or volunteers with AAPI organizations including the CIDBIA, Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda), and Friends of Little Saigon. She resides in the Seattle area with her family.

About Special Olympics Washington

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for thousands of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. In 2025, the organization will celebrate its 50th anniversary by honoring its remarkable legacy in Washington while setting the stage for a stronger, more inclusive future. Learn more at SpecialOlympicsWashington.org.

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Media Contact

Jaymelina Esmele
Special Olympics Washington
(206) 578-3339
jesmele@sowa.org

A photo of Ms. Do is available by request.