WSIB's Theresa Whitmarsh honored as Executive Director of the Year

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Olympia – Theresa Whitmarsh, executive director of the Washington State Investment Board (WSIB), was named Executive Director of the Year at the April 28 Institutional Investor Roundtable for Public Plans.

Institutional Investor's third annual Investor Intelligence Awards were presented to outstanding and innovative public plan sponsors in North America. The honors are an outgrowth of the Investor Intelligence Network, a private online platform organized in 2011 by Institutional Investor to encourage a collaborative exchange of investment ideas and best practices among pension plans, foundations and endowments.

The WSIB's Chief Investment Officer, Gary Bruebaker, also received a nomination for an Investor Intelligence Award for Public/Private Equity.

"Our primary aim is to recognize those individuals considered by peers and industry members to be true innovators, leaders and cutting-edge thinkers," said Katarina Storfer, Executive Director at Institutional Investor.

Ms. Whitmarsh has served as executive director at the WSIB since 2009 and previously worked six years as the WSIB's Chief Operating Officer. In March, she also was elected as board chair of the Council of Institutional Investors, a professional association for employee benefit funds and endowments.

"It's a privilege to work with a terrific board and staff, and it's always energizing to partner at a professional level with peers who are constantly looking for ways to meaningfully improve our industry as a whole," said Whitmarsh.

During her tenure as executive director, Ms. Whitmarsh has spoken out in support of improved long-term investment disciplines, effective governance practices and increased gender diversity within the asset management industry. Prior to working at the WSIB, she worked for a leading health care data and analytics software company. She also served six years at the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries where she managed one of the largest workers' compensation funds in the United States.

The WSIB, created in 1981, manages approximately $105 billion for the state's 17 public employee retirement plans and 18 other public trust funds in support of state universities, industrial insurance and developmental disabilities programs. The agency employs a staff of 92 to manage a global portfolio of private and public market investments. The WSIB's 15-member governing Board of Trustees consists of 10 voting members and five non-voting members, all of whom serve as independent fiduciaries.

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