

WSIB hires new Chief Operating Officer

(November 2, 2021)

Olympia – The Washington State Investment Board has hired Curt Gavigan as Chief Operating Officer, effective November 1, 2021. He comes to the WSIB after serving as Staff Director at Washington State Senate Committee Services, which provides nonpartisan policy, legal, and fiscal staffing for individual senators and their committees.

As COO, Gavigan will report to the agency's CEO and will oversee the WSIB's administrative operations, including the Information Technology Systems unit and the Legal, Risk and Compliance Services unit. He also will help oversee the agency's Operating Committee, which tracks and manages operational aspects of business projects across the organization. Other responsibilities include WSIB's contracts and procurement, the agency's business travel program, and facilities management for offices in Olympia and Seattle.

The WSIB's previous COO, Ian Cameron, left the WSIB to relocate to the East Coast in 2019. In the interim, WSIB operations were overseen by the agency's Chief Executive Officer and its Operating Committee.

"We are excited to welcome Curt to the WSIB because he brings such a wealth of expertise in helping to navigate complex and challenging issues that can affect our organization at the staff and Board levels. I know his contributions will make a real and positive impact for us and our stakeholders," said WSIB CEO Theresa Whitmarsh.

Gavigan comes to the WSIB with a long history of public service in Washington state. He started as a staffer with Washington State Senate Committee Services in 2004 and worked his way up to become Deputy Director in 2014 and Director in 2018. Previously, he worked as an attorney with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor, and was a legal intern with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Spokane. He is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran University, with a bachelor's degree in history, and he graduated top in his class at Gonzaga University School of Law in 2003.

About the WSIB

The Washington State Investment Board, with \$180 billion in assets under management, is charged with investing assets for 17 retirement plans benefiting public employees, teachers, law enforcement officers, firefighters and judges. The organization also manages investments for other public trust funds that support Labor & Industries benefit insurance programs and other state educational and disabilities beneficiary programs. The WSIB employs a staff of 115 people and was created by state legislative policy in 1981.