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## Press Release

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Mary Sheely  
(206) 285-9140  
msheely@nwcenter.org

### **Northwest Center Expands Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiatives with New Role** *Courtney McGhee Named DEI Engagement Coordinator; Steering Committee Added to Team*

**Seattle, WA** – April 12, 2022 – Northwest Center (NWC) is adding to its Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) commitment by adding a new position and new steering committee to the NWC team that provides reception and other office support services on the Amazon campus. Corporate Receptionist Courtney McGhee has been named Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Engagement Coordinator, a role that she has taken on part-time in addition to her reception work. McGhee joined Reception Program Manager Cheryl Keyes to create the new role, which is part of Northwest Center’s commitment to equity and inclusion of all races, genders, identities, and ethnicities, and which includes an Equity Committee that was established in 2015.

As DEI Engagement Coordinator, McGhee works alongside a newly created Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Committee to engage with Northwest Center leadership and staff who work on the Amazon campus, to set DEI goals and track outcomes aligned with work experiences, to ensure that the team’s DEI efforts support the entire NWC organization and mission, and to foster a positive and inclusive work environment. The DEI Steering Committee includes members of NWC’s leadership and Human Resources teams.

As DEI Engagement Coordinator, McGhee works with staff on all levels to provide DEI support, communication, and direction, including measuring performances and outcomes and seeking new and improved DEI methodologies to develop a more inclusive culture. McGhee helped found Northwest Center’s Black Affinity Group (B.A.G.) which helps guide equity efforts while providing information on Black history and current events to NWC staff. She has also created company-wide trainings on topics including “Racism and Acceptance vs. Tolerance in the Workplace.”

“It’s important to make sure Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are truly being represented in the work space as well as our personal lives,” says McGhee, who says her driving forces is making sure everyone has a voice and standing up for what is right. “After all the terrible things we saw and continue to see on television and social media that happen to people of color, I made it my duty to find a way to bring change,” she says.

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### **ABOUT NORTHWEST CENTER**

Northwest Center (NWC) is one of the nation’s largest and most comprehensive organizations serving the community with disability inclusion programs and services that advance equal opportunities for people of all abilities. NWC was founded in 1965 by Seattle parents who refused to give up when their kids with disabilities were rejected from schools, and who went on to pass legislation guaranteeing an education to kids with disabilities. Today, Northwest Center provides Early Supports and inclusive Early Learning for children from birth to school age, Employment Services to adults with disabilities in counties across Washington state and in Northern Idaho, and is rapidly expanding inclusive early learning by training other organizations how to include kids with disabilities. For more information, visit [www.nwcenter.org](http://www.nwcenter.org)