



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jenn Ramirez Robson joins Northwest Center as Vice President of Employment Services

SEATTLE – Northwest Center is pleased to welcome Jenn Ramirez Robson as Vice President of Northwest Center Employment Services (ES). In this role, Ramirez Robson will lead Northwest Center’s individualized employment services for people with disabilities across Washington state and in Northern Idaho. These services include training and instruction for people with disabilities to build professional and social skills to prepare for employment, school-to-work services including job readiness, job placement, job coaching, and skill development for individuals in their final years of school, and support for people with disabilities to secure and thrive in meaningful careers.

Before joining Northwest Center, Ramirez Robson was Director of Resident Services for King County Housing Authority (KCHA), a position she held for seven years. In her work for KCHA, Ramirez Robson led a team of 40 people to provide health, economic stability, employment, and education programs, services, and referrals for families, the elderly, and people with disabilities that make up over 18,000 households in KCHA’s subsidized housing programs across King County. In that role, her accomplishments included implementing award-winning programs based on resident and community identified needs; restructuring the Resident Services department to a more effective regional-based model, initiating an agency-wide Trauma-Informed Care training program; launching a Resident Assistant Intern program; and, most recently, co-leading KCHA’s efforts to provide over 70 on-site COVID-19 vaccine clinics for vulnerable community members.

Previously, Ramirez Robson served as Director of Strategic Partnerships for Southwest Youth & Family Services, fostering donor relationships and managing fundraisers that supported critical services in significantly under-resourced communities within South King County including Southwest Seattle, White Center, South Park, Burien, and SeaTac.

From 2011-13, Ramirez Robson was Executive Director of New Futures, which operated community learning centers in four South King County low-income apartment complexes serving more than 1,700 children, youth, and adults each year, where she negotiated a merger between New Futures and Southwest Youth & Family Services. During her tenure, the children served improved an average of 1.4 grade levels in their oral reading each year, 96% percent of



youth participants reported that they were planning for graduation and their future, and 72% of families reported increased involvement in their children's reading and homework.

As Vice President of Northwest Center Employment Services, Ramirez Robson will maximize the impact of employment programs centralized to best serve specific regions: North Puget Sound, East Puget Sound, South Puget Sound, and Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho.

“Northwest Center Employment Services has a well-deserved reputation for responsiveness to the people we serve, a commitment to finding meaningful employment for people of all abilities regardless of barriers, our strong business relationships, and our person-centered services. With expertise in successfully serving people from a variety of backgrounds and communities, Jenn Ramirez Robson is the perfect choice to lead our Employment Services team,” says President & CEO Gene Boes. “We look forward to continuing to build on our services as we begin to place people in employment in Idaho and as more people prepare to return to work as the pandemic begins to recede.”

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About Northwest Center

*Northwest Center is a nonprofit founded in 1965 by a group of mothers who later went on to write and pass historic civil rights legislation guaranteeing access to public education for disabled children. Northwest Center is now a leading voice in advancing equal opportunities for children and adults with disabilities providing early learning and school age programs, employment and job placement services and vocational training. **Learn more at nwcenter.org.***