

DR. KAREN JOHNSON

Department of Corrections

Dr. Karen A. Johnson (she/her/hers), the first Equity & Inclusion Administrator for the Washington State Department of Corrections, is an inspiring, authentic, servant leader with decades of experience working alongside others to achieve workforce equity and inclusive excellence for breakthrough results.

Dr. Johnson received her doctorate from Old Dominion University, serves as adjunct faculty for the Master's of Public Administration program at The Evergreen State College, and teaches weekend intensives on implicit bias and dismantling racism in the public sector. Karen began her public service career as an Occupational Therapist with the Department of Veterans Affairs and has decades of experience as both a manager in the non-profit sector and executive leader in federal and state government, including serving as the Chief Administrative Officer for the James E. Van Zandt Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Altoona, Pennsylvania. She has an extensive portfolio of community service and her life work is to advance liberty and justice for all.

