

## Welcome the New Faces of Leadership in Mason County

### Danette

**Brannin** has been appointed General Manager of Mason Transit Authority (MTA). The MTA Board decided to hire Brannin rather than go through a lengthy and costly recruitment process. After much deliberation, the Board decided an external search was not necessary as the skills and talents needed to lead MTA are evident in Danette's performance to date. In her four months as Acting General Manager, she has demonstrated the skills and vision needed to continue to grow MTA service from a position of fiscal strength and sustainability.



Brannin started working at MTA in June 2012 and has grown with the agency over the last four years. She began as the staff accountant, then quickly excelled and was promoted to Finance Manager in December of 2012. She says, "We have a great team that I am honored to be a part of and look forward to supporting as we continue to move MTA towards being a transit agency of excellence that provides great customer service, as well as partners and builds relationships with the community."

### Wendy Smith

has been offered the position as Port of Shelton Executive Director, though the contract had not completed negotiation at print time. Wendy has worked in both the public and private sector, which has given her the balance necessary to lead a Port District. Having worked at the Port over the past six years, Smith is familiar



and involved in every part of the Port's financial systems, tenant management, project management and human resource management.

"I see this as a tremendous strength that, paired with my positive approach, has already earned me the trust and respect of citizens, tenants and community groups. I am excited to face the challenge and see my promotion as a seamless transition to the current work I have performed," she says. Smith's goals include continued positive job growth, business retention, exceptional customer service, and continued growth of assets.

### Ryan Wheaton

steps into his role as City of Shelton's Administrator on August 8. Wheaton is a



Shelton native who is excited to begin his new role for both personal and professional reasons. Professionally, he says he enjoys and excels at building collaboration and implementing fiscal improvements. On a personal level, Wheaton says he has a connection to the job that cannot be overlooked. "I still owe the community for all the opportunities it afforded me growing up... a return to Shelton allows my family to settle down in the only home I have ever really known," he says.

Wheaton comes to the City from Pierce Transit where he has been the Specialized Transportation Manager since 2014. Prior to that, Wheaton was Program Coordinator for the Steilacoom School District in Washington for three years, Research Analyst at the University of Nebraska, and early in his career he was a high school teacher in Denver, Co.