



### **MODERATOR Nick Stowe - Chief Technology Officer, WaTech**

Nick Stowe was appointed WaTech's State Chief Technology Officer in March 2023. As CTO, Nick is responsible for setting the technological vision for the state of Washington and driving transformational technology initiatives to enhance service delivery to residents. He oversees the Architecture and Innovation Division (AID), which includes enterprise architecture, cloud computing, geospatial information systems, and data management.

Nick joined WaTech in June 2021 as the Chief Enterprise Architect, bringing 15 years of IT experience. Before WaTech, he served as CIO for both the Department of Commerce and the Employment Security Department. Nick co-chairs Washington state's AI Community of Practice, leads the Innovation & Modernization Program (IMP), and chairs the IT Investment Board, which oversees the IMP.

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### **John Buckley - Deputy CIO, Department of Fish and Wildlife**

John serves as the Deputy Chief Information Officer (DCIO) for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, where he has been since September 2017. John is responsible for leading the development and management of technology systems and services that support the agency's mission. With a focus on aligning IT strategies with business objectives, John provides leadership in designing and maintaining an agency-wide IT plan, while fostering a collaborative and high-performance work environment. John also served as the Supervisor of Revenue and Statistics for the Department of Licensing, where he managed \$100 million in revenue and oversaw a \$15 million budget for the department's fiscal operations.

John led DFW's successful application for both years of the IMF program for the Enterprise Permitting Program in 2023 and the Commercial Licensing System for 2024.

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### **Annette Roth - Community Development Manager, Arts Commission**

Annette Roth is the Community Development Manager and Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the Washington State Arts Commission (ArtsWA). With a diverse background in communications, web and UX design, systems design, and economic development, she leads the Creative Districts program, collaborating with nearly 30 communities across the state. Annette frequently speaks at national conferences on creative placemaking and rural economic development and provides consulting to other state arts agencies. As ArtsWA's CIO, she oversees IT infrastructure and policy development. Annette is also a certified Change Leader Institute facilitator for Washington State. Before joining ArtsWA, she worked in economic development in Thurston County and owned a marketing firm in



**Washington State**  
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Modernization Summit '24

## Innovation & Modernization Program Panelists

Tacoma, WA. Additionally, she teaches graphic design at South Puget Sound Community College. Annette holds a B.S. in Marketing Management and is a 2013 graduate of Leadership Thurston County. She also serves as Co-Chair on the IMF Board and is a previous grant recipient.

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### **Tania Johnson - IT Planning & Project Management Office Manager, Washington State Patrol**

In her current role, Tania focuses on training project managers, overseeing IT projects, and supporting the agency's business programs through comprehensive technology planning, IT strategic planning, and the development of business cases and project plans. She leads a team of project managers, business analysts, and enterprise and application architects, ensuring the successful delivery of technology solutions that support the agency's mission.

Over her career, Tania has accumulated 34 years of experience in Information Technology and 13 years as an accountant. She has spent the past 22 years with the Washington State Patrol, starting as a software engineer and progressing to roles in project and program management.

### **Kathy Costello - Innovation and Modernization Program Manager, WaTech**

An experienced and passionate public service professional, Kathy specializes in guiding agencies in Washington state to develop strategic technology plans that align with their core missions. With over 22 years of experience managing enterprise application portfolios for state agencies such as General Administration, Enterprise Services, Financial Management, and WaTech, Kathy brings expertise in enterprise architecture, process improvement, project management, and strategic planning.

As the Innovation & Modernization Program Manager, Kathy facilitates the grant process, coordinates project reviews with the IT Investment Board, and ensures the successful implementation and oversight of approved projects.

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