

Our Annual Year in Review is a chance to learn about issues and events that made the most impact on our community through the lense of local leaders. We've brought in news correspondents, CEO's, politicians and various types of visionaries. Take a look at this year's panelists and what they will bring to the table. [Register today for this popular event.](#)



### **Bill Bryant's Reach Goes From Sea to State**

Bill Bryant is the Seattle Port Commissioner and recently went public about his intention to run for governor in 2016. He grew up in Washington on the Olympic peninsula. After earning his degree in trade and diplomacy at Georgetown University, he found his way up to Seattle and started his own business. He went on to become a top consultant in his field to government officials across party lines, and has worked for the Port of Seattle since 2008, when he was elected into his role as Port Commissioner. This year Bryant faced a movement lead by activists, known as Kayaktavists, that protested Shell docking oil rigs along Seattle's waterfront.

### **Ana Marie Cauce Brings a Multitude of "Firsts" to UW**

After joining the ranks of the Huskies in 1986, Ana Marie Cauce found herself climbing the ladder of academia to her recently appointed position as President of the University of Washington. Born in Cuba, Cauce spent much of her life in Miami.

Cauce filled in as interim president after UW's previous President left to pursue other opportunities at Texas A&M. Her long history with the institution and support of its various communities resonated enough to earn her a permanent title. She's been a part of landmark efforts of higher education such as increasing low-income access to higher education through the deliverance of the Husky Promise, supporting interdisciplinary studies through the implementation of the one-of-a-kind Global Innovation Exchange degree program and speaking up on issues of diversity on multiple occasions. As the first Latina, female president at UW, Cauce has found herself at the forefront of history in more ways than one.

### **Sheley Secret Organizes Voices Around Discrimination**

Sheley Secret is the Vice President of the Alaska Oregon Washington State Area Conference NAACP and is a committed Black Lives Matter activist. Secret successfully fought to increase civilian oversight of local police misconduct complaints. She advocated for the implementation of city ordinances which decrease economic inequality and secured inclusion oversight in government funded contracts of state projects.

Secret was a driving force in passing legislation in education reform to close the achievement gap of African American students. She has over 15 years of experience

performing legislative advocacy, and is currently working to restore Affirmative Action efforts to achieve racial equality throughout Washington.

### **Blair Taylor Leads the Coffee and Community Collaboration**

Blair Taylor joined Starbucks in July 2012 as Starbucks chief community officer. Taylor leads the company's Community, Government Relations, Diversity and Global Responsibility teams. He has over 25 years of public and private sector experience with institutions such as the Los Angeles Urban League, PepsiCo and IBM.

Taylor's focus is on public and private sector collaborations, such as the [Neighborhoods@Work](#) program he championed for the LA Urban League with over 150 partnerships. During this time he also launched international relationships in business and government and as a result, oversaw the closing of the achievement gap in one of LA's most renowned and struggling schools - Crenshaw High. According to a Starbucks [financial release](#), in two years the school saw a 50% increase in graduation rates and a 20% decrease in drop-out rates. Taylor has also served on several school boards and was appointed by U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan to the National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB).