

# Mary Jean Ryan

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Founding Executive Director, Community Center for Education Results** **January 2010 – Present**  
Founded the Community Center for Education Results to staff [the Road Map Project](#), a collective impact initiative aimed at closing racial and ethnic opportunity gaps and getting dramatic improvement in student achievement from cradle through college in South Seattle and South King County. Since its founding, the Road Map Project has emerged as one of the nation’s strongest examples of collective impact work. Notable team accomplishments include:
  - ⇒ Creating a large, cross-sector partnership of aligned implementers, advocates and funders.
  - ⇒ Dramatically increasing regional College Bound Scholarship sign-up rates.
  - ⇒ Building a powerful longitudinal pre-K-to-college data system that supports efforts to improve system performance.
  - ⇒ Spearheading the development of the region’s Opportunity Youth re-engagement system.
  - ⇒ Supporting the creation of the College and Career Leadership Institute.
  - ⇒ Providing the start-up support for the Renton Innovation Zone Partnership.
  - ⇒ Securing a \$40 million Race to the Top grant for a seven-district consortium.
- **Washington State Board of Education** **March 2006 – January 2014**  
Appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire to serve on the reconstituted State Board. Served several terms as chair. Worked to establish the Board as a strong policy and strategic oversight body for K-12 in Washington. Developed CORE 24 – the Board’s college and career-ready high school graduation requirements proposal, new math and science standards and a new statewide accountability system.
- **Director, City of Seattle – Office of Policy and Management** **January 2002 – December 2009**
  - ⇒ Created the Office in 2002 which provided policy analysis, strategy development and complex project management for Seattle City government.
  - ⇒ Successfully led the development of the Mayor’s Children and Youth Strategy and Budget.
  - ⇒ Active practitioner participant in the Brookings Institution’s “Blueprint for American Prosperity” national initiative.
  - ⇒ Supported the renewal of the \$116 million Families and Education Levy with a strong focus on opportunity gap closure.
  - ⇒ Developed and implemented the Mayor’s city department accountability system; assisted in the creation of the City Leadership Institute.
  - ⇒ Managed job creation and community development initiatives in areas such as South Lake Union and Northgate. These projects involved land use, neighborhood plans, parks, environmental and transportation issues.
- **Director, City of Seattle – Office of Economic Development** **September 1995 – December 2001**
  - ⇒ Established the Seattle Jobs Initiative (SJI), an award-winning workforce development intermediary serving low-income Seattle residents.
  - ⇒ Organized the transfer of assets to community control of the City’s small business loan program using a performance-based contracting approach. The assets transferred capitalized Community Capital Development (CCD) – a new community-based organization formed to address the lending and business assistance needs of Seattle’s low-income communities.
  - ⇒ Served as Board Chair of the Seattle Community Development Collaborative – a funding mechanism established by the Ford Foundation to build capacity in Seattle’s Community Development Corporations (CDCs).
- **Associate Deputy Administrator for Economic Development** **April 1994 – June 1995**  
**U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Washington, D.C.**

- ⇒ Clinton Administration appointee – reported to Erskine Bowles, Administrator of the SBA. Responsible for the management of the SBA’s national equity investment, lending, and business education functions.
- ⇒ Oversaw an annual operating budget of \$63 million, annual lending/investment of \$11.6 billion and provided policy direction for 292 headquarters and 1200 field office employees.
- ⇒ Achieved particular success in developing new initiatives, reducing paperwork, increasing SBA lending volumes and portfolio quality, and developing an agency-wide approach to economic development.

• **Director, Office of Economic Development – City of Seattle** **April 1992 – March 1994**

- ⇒ Led the creation of the City’s Economic Development office in 1992.
- ⇒ Created and led Mayor Rice’s Downtown Action Plan. This effort is credited with many of the successes associated with Seattle’s dramatic downtown resurgence.
- ⇒ Managed the turnaround of the City’s problem-plagued small business loan program.

• **Executive Director, Evergreen Community Development Association** **January 1986 – March 1992**

- ⇒ Successfully operated the second largest SBA Licensed Certified Development Company (CDC) in the nation. CDCs originate and service small business real estate loans that are guaranteed by the U.S. Small Business Administration. Repeatedly won CDC industry recognition for outstanding loan volume and for leadership in CDC policy and program issues.
- ⇒ Dramatically increased the Association's loan portfolio and staff capacity. In 1986, the Association had loans of \$24,374,000 and a staff of two. This grew to ten full-time and several part-time staff and loans totaling \$88,039,000 in 1992. This growth was accomplished without compromising portfolio performance or the Association's financial condition.
- ⇒ Initiated, developed, and managed the Association's successful consulting practice centered on the development of appropriate small business assistance strategies for distressed rural and urban areas.
- ⇒ Established a charitable donation program for the Association, which provided contributions to innovative efforts promoting recycling as well as efforts combating child abuse.

**EDUCATION**

- **University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA – M.P.A.** **1981-1983**
- **Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. – B.A.** **1976-1980**  
Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

**HONORS**

- Bill Henningsgaard Cradle to Career Champion Award – STRIVE Together National Network
- 2013 Center for Ethical Leadership Award
- 2013 PTA Statewide Friend of Children Award
- 2009 Wales Foundation Passionate Citizenship Honoree Award
- Seattle Management Association Leadership Award
- National Association of Development Companies Hall of Fame Award for Industry Leadership
- U.S. Small Business Administration Excellence Award
- Georgetown University Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee