

Getting Things Done in Government: Winona Varnon

Dear Senior Fellows and Friends,

November's a great time of year to gather and remember all that we have (including each other), and all that we're able to contribute to the public good. On the 14th, we'll focus on what it takes to keep the trains running. Most, if not all, agencies have a centralized staff office that houses a complex set of management functions that impact employees at all locations. The people who do those jobs, some of which are very difficult, support the mission by enabling the other organizational components to operate. We'll be talking with the senior leader in the Department of Education's Office of Management, Winona H. Varnon. The position she is in holds several very different delegations from the Secretary, and Winona manages the duties that are associated with them proactively and well.

The Senior Executive Service emblem is a keystone. This symbolizes the coordinating role of the career SES, which translates each Administration's political agenda into reality so that line workers can implement it. An ideal that I have heard associated with the SES is that its members will have the breadth, professionalism, and flexibility that equip them to move wherever senior leadership is needed. Winona's bio, available at <http://www2.ed.gov/news/staff/bios/index.html>, demonstrates her willingness and confident ability to do that.

This invitation is non-transferable so that a proper welcome can be prepared for each participant. If a colleague would like to be invited, please ask him or her to contact me.

We'll convene in Vie de France's meeting room, right rear off the center atrium in the Graduate School building. There will be one dinner tab per table - please bring small bills, and contribute \$5 toward room rent as you pick up your nametag. The room will open at 5:30 p.m. and order-taking will begin at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Regards,
Kitty Wooley