I'm Elaine Deschamps, Executive Director of the Washington State Caseload Forecast Council (CFC), an independent agency that produces forecasts of the demand for statewide public and entitlement services. These forecasts range from health care to public education, from the criminal justice system to public assistance programs, and drive 80 percent of the Washington State budget within 98 percent accuracy. At the CFC we evaluate our forecasts regularly and publish data-driven performance measures on our website (www.cfc.wa.gov). Our forecasts are the result of a collaborative, unbiased, rigorous, and transparent technical workgroup process, and are available for public use.

My passion is to connect academic and practitioner knowledge and use that synergy towards improving forecasting process and accuracy. I have consulted in both the public and private sectors, in arenas ranging from low-income health care to supply chain forecasting. I began as an academic, earning my PhD in Political Science from Indiana University. I'm now a practitioner, making forecast decisions involving millions of dollars, and upholding our agency's mission of unbiased and transparent forecasts.

Toward the goal of blending academic and practitioner knowledge, I served on Foresight's Editorial Board and wrote the Special Feature article in the second issue of Foresight: "The Organizational Politics of Forecasting: Six Steps to Overcome Bias in the Forecast Process." I'm interested in furthering the research and practice around judgmental adjustments, organizational change, and collaborative forecasting. During my time as Executive Director of the CFC, I have improved our ability to access and utilize quality administrative data, to explain forecast variances through improved data-mining and communication with domain experts, and have promoted forecast transparency and neutrality through our consensus-driven, evaluative technical workgroup process.

My other passion is to strengthen and broaden the IIF community. From my first ISF conference in Washington, DC in 1999 to my latest in Boulder, CO in 2018, I have been utterly inspired by this community. From a coffee break with a mentor when you unlock a new idea to explore, to happy hour with a newfound colleague where you exchange forecasting software techniques. This community led to my first publication in the International Journal of Forecasting, "The impact of institutional change on forecast

accuracy: A case study of budget forecasting in Washington State." I've chaired ISF sessions, served on panels, and have presented at conferences in the public and private sector, both academic and practitioner-oriented, with attendances ranging from 4 to 400. . I would reach out to my connections in the public and private sector, and encourage fellow analysts and young professionals to attend their first ISF, to submit that first paper.

I've spent 22 years in the practice of forecasting, and have spent 20 of them with the IIF. If elected to the IIF Board of Directors, I look forward to inspiring our next generation of forecasters in this new capacity!

Sincerely,

Elaine Deschamps
Elaine.deschamps@cfc.wa.gov