



Washington State Commission On

African American Affairs

August 30, 2021



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Eugene Parker

Instead of pursuing his own professional athletic career, Eugene Parker founded his sports management company and is known as the first African American lawyer to pioneer into sports representation.

The Fort Wayne, Indiana native attended Purdue University earning a degree in Business Management while playing as a starter for the university's basketball team. Drafted by the San Antonio Spurs, Parker instead accepted an assistant coaching gig at Valparaiso University to complete law school. He founded Maximum Sports Management in 1993 and in 1995 negotiated a lucrative seven-year, \$35 million dollar contract with a \$13 million dollar signing bonus for Deion Sanders. The deal made Sanders the highest paid NFL player at the time.

Parker also negotiated three record-setting contracts for Cardinal player Larry Fitzgerald - making him the highest paid wide receiver in the history of the league at that time. Considered the most prominent African American professional sports agent, Parker helped negotiate more than a billion dollars in contracts. A few of his other clients included Emmitt Smith, Walter Jones and Dez Bryant.

Sources:

Blackpast.org; ESPN.com; Forbes.com;
Sports Illustrated.com; Wikipedia.org;

Pierce County Business Accelerator Offers Entrepreneurial Assistance

In response to the pandemic and the adverse impacts on underserved communities in Pierce County, the County Council has allocated \$5M of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to launch the Pierce County Business Accelerator.

The program will serve entrepreneurs and business owners throughout Pierce County with a focus on underserved communities to help foster innovation and create wealth-building opportunities.

The Pierce County Business Accelerator will provide direct access to business resources such as relevant training, coaching, technical assistance, and networking support to launch and grow micro businesses in Pierce County. Upon completion, participants will receive access to potential funding options, matching grant resources up to \$10,000, a commercial rent stipend for one year up to \$500/mo., and coaching/mentorship for one year. Businesses must be located in Pierce County.

First Round Application Deadline: **September 10**. Applications submitted after September 10 will be considered for a later cohort. The first cohort will kick-off by the end of September

[Pierce County Business Accelerator Application](#)

[Pierce County Business Accelerator FAQs and Application Checklist](#)

Need help with the application? Contact The Black Collective and Tacoma Urban League: Maamideede Hudson at (253) 383-2006 or maamideede@thetacomaurbanleague.org

EMPLOYMENT/CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Please see our website for additional announcements WWW.CAA.WA.GOV/Employment

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES [openings](#)

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL [openings](#)

COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS [Executive Assistant](#). Closing August 31, 2021

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE [openings](#)

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS [openings](#)

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT [openings](#)

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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY [openings](#)

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DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE [openings](#)

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SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE [openings](#) COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF SPOKANE [openings](#) OLYMPIC COLLEGE [openings](#)

TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT [openings](#) KITSAP MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES [openings](#) SPOKANE HEALTH DEPARTMENT [openings](#)

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION [openings](#)

PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT [Habitat Improvement Projects Manager](#).
First review of applicants begins September 22, 2021

WASHINGTON STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS [Associate Leadership Legislative Assistant](#)