

Partners *in* Progress



An Economic Development Quarterly

Fall 2005

Investing in Human Capital: Workforce Trends, Issues, and Solutions

Today more than ever, a highly trained workforce plays a key role in the economic vitality of a community and a region. On Thursday, September 15, the Inland Northwest Partners will present its 2005 Fall Meeting entitled “Investing in Human Capital”, featuring a variety of speakers offering different perspectives about workforce trends, issues and solutions.

The conference will kick off at 8:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast at the Mirabeau Park Hotel in the Spokane Valley. Following introductory comments, Dr. Susan Quattrocchi, an associate with the Center for Learning Connections in Seattle, will share her views on the changing trends in education and the workforce - and potential solutions available to help fill the gap between the two.

Next, a panel of industry, economic development and education leaders from throughout the region will discuss various workforce issues facing the Inland Northwest, as well as potential solutions to address these issues.

Following lunch, Expansion Management Chief Editor Bill King will address the important connection between education, workforce and economic development in his presentation entitled “Workforce and Education: The Key to Prosperity in the Knowledge Economy”.

From 1:30 to 2:30, Walla Walla Community College

President Dr. Steve VanAusdler will share a great success story involving a partnership between education and industry that resulted in economic growth for the entire community.

The meeting will wrap up by 2:30 p.m. Registration information for the INP 2005 Fall Meeting follows.

(Check out the meeting agenda on page 4 for additional details!)

**Special thanks to the
Washington State Department of
Community, Trade, and Economic
Development (CTED) for
co-sponsoring this event**



2005 INP Fall Meeting

DATE:

Thursday, September 15, 2005

TIME:

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

LOCATION:

Mirabeau Park Hotel, N. 1100 Sullivan Rd., Spokane Valley, WA

COST:

\$30 for INP members; \$50 for non-members (Refunds will be provided to cancellations received by Sept.12)

TO REGISTER:

Register online at www.inwp.org or send the names of those attending along with payment to INP, P.O. Box 164, Liberty Lake, WA 99019. Please call (509) 495-4064 with questions.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

Mirabeau Park Hotel, N.1100 Sullivan Rd, Spokane Valley, WA; (866) 584-4674 or (509) 924-9000; room rate - \$76.00 and up.

DIRECTIONS:

The Mirabeau Park Hotel is located at N.1100 Sullivan Road in the Spokane Valley. From I-90 East or West, take exit 291B (Sullivan Road). Proceed south on Sullivan Road 1-2 blocks and turn left on Mission Ave. into the hotel parking lot.

Inland Northwest Partners News Briefs

Idaho Rural Entrepreneurs Can Take Advantage of New Business Training

A training program to help entrepreneurs succeed is now available in many of Idaho's rural communities. The Small Business Development Center has partnered with Idaho Commerce & Labor to certify many of Idaho's rural economic development professionals to teach the NxLevel entrepreneurial training program. The NxLevel program is designed to encourage business startups and expansions in a community, which is crucial in Idaho's rural areas. The 10 to 12 week course covers a variety of different subjects, everything from financing to legal issues to how to market a business. The course also provides an opportunity to network with local business leaders, who participate as guest speakers. For more information about the NxLevel program visit the Idaho Small Business Development Center Web site at www.idahosbdc.org or call 1-800-225-3815.

Spokane Ranks #2 on Popular Science Medical & Emergency Tech List

Spokane ranked #2 out of 127 Metropolitan Statistical Area's (MSA) in the area of Medical & Emergency Technology in Popular Science's recently released ranking of Top Cities for Technology. In the medical subcategory, Spokane fell only second to San Diego, CA, and ranked higher than Chicago, Seattle and Indianapolis. The ranking was based on many factors including number of hospitals and health care providers with advanced information technology, number of clinical trials underway, percent of emergency vehicles under computer-aided dispatch, and percent of emergency vehicles that are GPS-equipped. Spokane scored an overall technology ranking of 44 out of 127 cities in the nation.

"This kind of national recognition validates the collaborative value of our Spokane hospitals working together. Our hospitals have remained focused on maximizing quality patient care through advanced technology and clinical computing of INHS," said Thomas Fritz, CEO of Inland Northwest Health Services. "Our hospitals are committed to expanding the role technology plays in continually improving the treatment outcomes of patient care."

For more information, please contact Maria Vandervert, Spokane EDC on (509) 624-9285 or via email at [mvantervert@spokaneedc.org](mailto:mvandervert@spokaneedc.org).

Carl Wilgus Named 2005 State Tourism Director of the Year

Idaho Tourism Director Carl Wilgus was named the 2005 State Tourism Director of the Year by the Travel Industry Association of America. Wilgus was recently presented the award during the association's annual Educational Seminar for Tourism Organizations held in Coeur d'Alene.

"The tourism industry is what I love," Wilgus said. "More than anything else this award reaffirms my commitment to my job and this industry."

The annual award is given to an individual whose influence has had the greatest impact on raising a state's "travel and tourism profile." Since Wilgus' appointment as the state of Idaho's tourism director in March 1987, Idaho has experienced a nearly 350 percent growth in its tourism budget and more than 1,600 percent growth in its requests for tourism information.

Premera Blue Cross Brings up to 250 Professional Jobs to Spokane

Gov. Christine Gregoire and Premera Blue Cross President and Chief Executive Officer H.R. Brereton (Gubby) Barlow recently announced plans for a multi-million dollar expansion of Premera's facilities to accommodate up to 250 new family wage jobs in Spokane. Gov. Christine Gregoire has

committed \$700,000 to Premera in support of the project from the Washington State Economic Development Strategic Reserve Account.

"This is just the kind of project the Washington State Economic Development Strategic Reserve Account was created to support," said Gov. Gregoire. "Premera had a number of options for locating this work, several of them out of state. Premera picked Eastern Washington. This Washington-grown company, doing business since 1933, is generating growth and is expanding, and will create professional-level jobs with benefits for Spokane area residents. The message is clear: Washington is a good place to do business."

Senate Bill 5370, which was sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, establishes an Economic Development Strategic Reserve Account to attract businesses to Washington state and to prevent business closure or relocation. Authorized uses include funding workforce development, public infrastructure, and other assistance provided contractually with an assurance of job creation or retention.

The Spokane Area Economic Development Council played a key role in working with Senator Brown and Premera to bring these new jobs to Spokane.

"We chose Spokane because of the competitive advantages it offers through a well educated and productive workforce and accessibility to our Seattle area headquarters. Spokane is a great place to grow a business. This announcement is the result of leadership, collaboration and a shared vision to make Spokane and Washington state's economy grow," said Barlow.

Premera expects to break ground this September and have the facility ready for occupancy in June of 2007.

Calling All Hometown Heroes!

Do you have someone in your community who has had a significant contribution to your local economy? You know – the person who is constantly volunteering his or her time to help make a difference.... and by being involved, makes all of the difference? If so, please take a moment to nominate your community volunteer for the Inland Northwest Partner's Hometown Hero Award, an award that honors a person who has played a key role in the economic development efforts of a community or region. The award will be given out at the INP Annual Meeting this winter. You can nominate your candidate by emailing a brief description of your nominee's qualifications to inlandnorthwest@ccser.com.

Investor Spotlight

INP Recognizes Washington State's Community, Trade & Economic Development Education and Training Program

Under the direction of Training Director Maury Forman and Program Manager Linda Alongi, the State of Washington Department of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) offers one of the best economic development education and training programs in the nation. The Education and Training program is responsible for the administration of professional development services for the economic development practitioner. Its purpose is to provide instruction in the fundamentals of comprehensive community and economic development and includes a practical and theoretical course of study. Workshops, seminars and conferences are coordinated in partnership with local economic development councils and non-profit associations.



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY,
TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The classes offer intensive training in the basic concepts, methods and strategies of local economic development. Subjects range in all areas of economic development including business attraction, marketing, business retention, tourism, financing, planning, and international trade. More than 1000 practitioners throughout the Northwest attend at least one of the offerings each year.

CTED's Education & Training program is also responsible for the publication of many how-to practical guides in economic development. The state has received national attention for its award winning publications that assist the practitioner in their understanding of how best to deliver services to a community. As one of the INP's original investors, we would like to thank CTED for the continued support of the Inland Northwest Partners organization and the Inland Northwest economy.



Boundary Economic Development Council Unveils New Web Site

The Boundary Economic Development Council (BEDC) recently completed work on its new web site, aimed at helping businesses identify resources related to business expansion and relocation in Boundary County, Idaho. The site offers information related to business climate, quality of life and BEDC work plans, to name a few. Check it out at www.boundaryedc.com

Economic Development Training Calendar

Taking Advantage of the Washington State Aerospace Tax Abatement
September 13
Spokane, WA
www.spokaneedc.org

2005 Idaho Community Block Grant Training
Sept. 14
Coeur d'Alene, ID
www.cl.idaho.gov

Inland Northwest Partners Fall Meeting
"Investing in Human Capital:
Workforce Trends, Issues and Solutions"
Spokane Valley, WA
www.inwp.org

IEDC 2005 Annual Conference
September 25-28
Chicago, IL
www.iedconline.org/AnnualConference

Pacific Northwest Biomedical & Life Sciences Summit
October 7
Spokane, WA
www.watechcenter.org

Intermountain Venture Forum
October 5-6
Boise, Idaho
www.boisechamber.org

Economic Impact Analysis Training
October 19-20
SeaTac, WA
www.wedaonline.org

Workforce Training Strategies 2005
October 24-26
Spokane, WA
www.wtb.wa.gov

2006 Regional Economic Forecast
Spokane, WA
November 15
www.spokanechamber.org
(Presented by the Journal of Business, Inland Northwest Partners and the Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce)

INP Thanks Investors

The INP appreciates the continued support of these progressive companies and their ongoing commitment to regional economic growth.

Inland Northwest Partners Investors:

Founding Investor:

Avista Corp.

Major Investors:

City of Post Falls

Horizon Air

Idaho Commerce and Labor

Inland Northwest Health Services

Washington State Department of

Community, Trade, and Economic Development

Contributing Investors:

Bank of America

Greenstone Corporation

Inland Power and Light
Kootenai Electric Cooperative

Merrill Lynch

The Spokesman Review

Washington State University

Washington Trust Bank

Wells Fargo

Community Investor:

Inland Northwest Bank

2005 INP Fall Meeting Agenda

8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Paul Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer
Inland Northwest Partners Board

9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

The Shocking Truth about Education and Work: Living, Learning and Earning in America

Dr. Susan Quattrociocchi, Associate
Center for Learning Connections
Seattle, WA

10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

The Inland Northwest Workforce: Perspectives and Priorities

Roger Ingbretsen, President
Ingbretsen Consulting, LLC
Spokane, WA

Steve Griffiths, President
Jobs Plus
Coeur d'Alene, ID

Lorraine Roach, President
Hingston Roach Group
Grangeville, ID

Tom O'Brien, Director
Eastern Washington Partnership WDC
Colville, WA

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Filling the Gap: Workforce Training in Action

Dr. Robert Ketchum, Director
North Idaho Workforce Training Center
Post Falls, ID

Dr. Joanne Murcar, Interim Dean
SCC Training & Education Coordinating Center
Spokane, WA

12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch & Keynote Presentation

Workforce & Education:

The Key to Prosperity in the Knowledge Economy

Bill King, Chief Editor
Expansion Management Magazine
Leawood, KS

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Partnering for Prosperity:

Walla Walla Community College Wine Institute

Steven VanAusdler, President
Walla Walla Community College
Walla Walla & Clarkston, WA

2:30 p.m.

Concluding Remarks

Paul Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer

Partners in Progress is a quarterly newsletter published for Inland Northwest Partners members. If your community has an event or an article you'd like to see featured in this newsletter, please email it to matthews@ccser.com.



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