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In the Loop

To: CEDC Board of Directors, CEDC Members and Interested Parties

From: Ted Sprague, CEDC President

Date: 1/24/10

NEW YEAR BEGINS WITH SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL MEETING

The CEDC annual meeting took place Thursday, January 14th at the Cowlitz County Expo Center. During this very difficult recession we had the largest attendance we have seen in years for an annual meeting. There was much anticipation for our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Arun Raha the Washington State Chief Economist and he lived up to his reputation as a knowledgeable, informative and entertaining speaker. Thank you to our Annual Meeting sponsors US Bank, Propel Insurance, Cascade Natural Gas and Anderson & Anderson Advisory for your support of the CEDC and our Annual Meeting. The support we receive from our private and public sector partners sustain our organization and provide the resources we need to continue our mission of job creation and diversified capital investment.



New Board members and Chair: (L to R) Joel Lengyel, Suzanne Cusick, Chair Mike Karnofski, Tom Haywood, Dean Piotrowski, Lisa Nisenfeld, Denise Ferner (Dick Riley not pictured)

January 24, 2010

Our outgoing Chair, Bob Gregory, City of Longview gave generously of his time and knowledge as his two years as Chair comes to an end. Our new Chair, Mike Karnofski of Weyerhaeuser is up for the challenge that a two year term will provide. We rely on our volunteers and leaders and I am grateful to have such excellent resources to be able to call on.



Mike Karnofski congratulates Bob Gregory



Dr. Arun Raha delivers Keynote Address



The Annual Meeting was attended by well over 200 community leaders

Photos courtesy of Mr. C's



January 24, 2010

USDA TO HOST JOBS FORUM IN COWLITZ COUNTY

Two community forums on jobs and economic growth are scheduled to be held in Washington state as a follow up to President Obama's December 3 White House briefings on job creation.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is leading an effort nationwide to listen to Rural America's thoughts and ideas about what is needed to create jobs and stimulate economic development in rural communities across the country.

In Washington State, the forums are scheduled for *Tuesday, January 26 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Cowlitz Regional Conference Center, 1900 7th Avenue, Longview, Wash.*; and Thursday, January 28 from 6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Perry Technical Institute Auditorium, 2011 W. Washington Ave, in Yakima.

The sessions will be in a simple town hall format and hosted by USDA Rural Development and USDA Farm Service Agency.

"In these difficult economic times, it is critical that USDA help lead the way in generating a community dialogue that captures ideas that can lead to solutions," said Mario Villanueva, Washington State Director for USDA Rural Development. "We must be about the task of doing all that we can to help grow the economic health of our rural communities in Washington. Across the country, USDA is working with the Obama Administration to revitalize our nation's economy."

"Our farming and rural communities are the building blocks of our state's economy. It is vital that we maintain the economic health of our rural communities. As USDA and the administration work to revitalize our nation's economy, it's important we hear from the people in these communities," said Judy Olson, Farm Service Agency State Executive Director in Spokane.

The forums are open to the public and there is no charge to attend. Everyone who has ideas on how to improve the economy is welcome to participate. Representatives of state, local, and tribal government; private industry, non-profits, finance, large and small business owners, entrepreneurs, educators, and concerned citizens are encouraged to attend.

For More Information, go to the USDA Rural Development website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa> and follow the "Washington Jobs and Economic Growth Forums" link; or contact Phil Eggman, USDA

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Rural Development, (360) 704-7709; email: philip.eggman@wa.usda.gov; or Chris Bieker, Farm Service Agency; (509) 323-3014; Email: chris.bieker@wa.usda.gov.

FIRST ANNUAL WASHINGTON MANUFACTURING AWARDS

Every now and then we are afforded an opportunity to break from the norm and do something a little different. I was recently invited to serve as a judge for the first annual Washington Manufacturing Awards being presented by Seattle Business Magazine and Washington Manufacturing Services (becoming Impact Washington in 2010).

The award ceremony will be held at the Hyatt Olive 8 in Seattle on April 27, 2010. They are currently seeking nominations of small (fewer than 20 employees), midsize (20-100 employees) and large (more than 100 employees) manufacturers in three categories (listed below). They are also seeking nominations for service company of the year.

The event will honor Washington's manufacturers, who play a crucial role in our state's economy. The winners will be chosen based on criteria that include revenue growth (relative to the industry), capital investment, leadership, employee training programs, production quality, productivity and energy conservation.

The award categories are:

- 1. Manufacturing Company of the Year Award:** Criteria include company performance relative to other companies in the industry, overall business strategy, manufacturing process improvements and innovations and working relationships with customers, partners and suppliers.
- 2. Manufacturing Executive of the Year Award:** Awarded to the manufacturing executive who has shown excellent management leadership, contributions to the industry or manufacturing sector, and a commitment to continuous improvement in the workplace.
- 3. Manufacturing Innovation of the Year Award:** Awarded to a company that has introduced an important innovation in manufacturing that improves productivity, reduces waste or increases quality. Design, implementation and performance are among criteria to be considered.
- 4. Service Company of the Year Award:** Based on outstanding support by a supplier, professional services firm or logistics firm to the manufacturing industry.

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Deadline for entries has been extended, but please submit soon. To submit a nomination, visit the [Washington Manufacturing Awards nomination homepage](http://seattlebusiness.tigeroak.advantagelabs.com/washington-manufacturing-awards) (<http://seattlebusiness.tigeroak.advantagelabs.com/washington-manufacturing-awards>). The winners will be announced at the awards banquet on April 27th and will be profiled in the May 2010 issue of Seattle Business.

In the last two years, Cowlitz County firms and agencies have won three out of ten statewide Governor's Best Practices Awards, it would be impressive to keep gaining acknowledgement for our area by taking home one of these awards. Please contact me if have any questions on your application.

LONGVIEW FIBRE SEEKS APPROVAL FOR SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Longview Fibre Paper and Packaging, Inc. gave notice last week to the Department of Ecology that it will be submitting a construction application to modify its "Air Operating and Prevention of Significant Deterioration" permits to construct a 650,000-pound-per-hour steam biomass boiler and 65 megawatt condensing turbine.

"We are investing in our infrastructure at the mill," said Longview President Randy Nebel. "This project will support our goals to use biomass-based energy, improve efficiencies and solidify the long-term viability of the business."

The new biomass boiler is based on fluidized bed technology and will consume an estimated 38,000 bone dry tons per month of biomass. The electricity generated will qualify as green power. The company anticipates project completion and startup during the third quarter of 2011.

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