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In the Loop

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

From: Ted Sprague, CEDC President

Date: 11/24/09

ECONOMIC SUMMIT - - 2010 BEST GUESS - - CO-SPONSORED BY CEDC AND THE KELSO/LONGVIEW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Please join CEDC and Chamber Members for an evening of “best guess” projections for the future on December 2nd from 5pm to 7pm at the Cowlitz Expo Center. We have invited experts and leaders representing several different areas of the economy to share their thoughts and vision for the future.

The evening event will feature a keynote address by Michael J. Parks who is the Editor Emeritus of *Marple's Letter*, considered a must read by economists and financial advisors throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. Michael is an engaging speaker and I am looking forward to hear his take on the economic climate and his projections for the future.

Following Michael's remarks we have gathered a panel of experts for moderated Q&A. Rick Winsman and I are very pleased with our lineup of panelists - -

Suzanne Cusick, Longview School District, Superintendent

Sy Johnson, PeaceHealth St. John Medical Center, CEO

Renee Sinclair, US Chamber of Commerce, NW Region

Jerry Flaskerud, Coldwell Banker Flaskerud Realty, Inc

Richard Fitzpatrick, Cowlitz Bank, President and CEO(invited)

Heidi Hughes, Governor Gregoire's Executive Economic Policy Advisor (invited)

Knowledge is power and by attending, you will gain a wealth of information to help you plan for 2010 and beyond. The cost is \$30 per person and reservations may be made by contacting the Chamber at 360.423.8400.



November 24, 2009

STORMWATER ROUND 2

The CEDC is proud to once again team up with the experts from Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt for an update on new stormwater rules. Our prior meeting generated a lot of local interest by providing direction for our business and community leaders on how to access assistance in the face of these regulations. Please join us for this critical update.



Update on Ecology's New Industrial Stormwater Permit

Wednesday, December 9, 2009
8:15 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Program
Red Lion Inn-Kelso

RSVP by December 4, 2009

Anna Arredondo
503-796-2986

events@schwabe.com
www.schwabe.com/events.aspx



Ecology recently issued its final Industrial Stormwater General Permit with significant modifications from previous permits, and some important changes from the draft released this summer. The final permit includes new Best Management Practices (BMPs), stricter effluent limits, and simplified sampling methods.

Please join the CEDC and Schwabe attorneys for a complimentary seminar in which we will provide an overview of some of the changes to the stormwater permit recently proposed by the Department of Ecology, and steps every permit holder needs to implement by the new year.

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DREARY PROJECTIONS FOR STATE REVENUE

The November revenue forecast for Washington state government shows projected General Fund revenue down \$760 million for the remainder of this biennium, which ends June 30, 2011. The figure was released recently by the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council.

Dr. Arun Raha, the state's chief revenue forecaster, said that "while the economy is improving as expected, much of the impetus has come from federal government spending, rather than consumer spending. State revenues suffer when consumers hold back. The change in the revenue forecast is due mainly to a revised estimate of when households will regain the confidence to spend on the goods and services that are subject to state taxes."

While another downward projection is not surprising, it is nevertheless disturbing. The EDC's across the state, including this one, were given a 9.1% cut across the board before our biennial contracts were even signed. We are fearful of further cuts coming out of the session beginning in January. In our view this is the wrong approach. We are working with incoming businesses and expanding local business to help turn this recessionary economy around, to get people back to work and to improve their careers. Cutting the local, publicly and privately supported conduit to this growth will only slow down the recovery.

FIRST ANNUAL WASHINGTON MANUFACTURING AWARDS

Every now and then we are afforded and 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.

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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.

Deadline for entries is **December 20, 2009**. 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.

COMMUNITY HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE CONTINUES TO IMPRESS

In a recent announcement Community Home Health & Hospice has been named to the 2009 HomeCare Elite™, a compilation of the top-performing home health agencies in the United States. This annual review identifies the top 25 percent of agencies and further



November 24, 2009

highlights the top 100 and top 500 agencies overall. Winners are ranked by an analysis of performance measures in quality outcomes, quality improvement, and financial performance.

“The 2009 HomeCare Elite winners demonstrate a commitment to providing their patients with the best possible care while performing at the highest level,” said Nancy Buller, senior director of marketing communications at OCS HomeCare. "We congratulate Community Home Health on being one of the top home care agencies in the country."

Great job and congratulations to Greg Pang, his staff and volunteers!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

It has been a trying year for most in our community, but I hope you will find peace, comfort and thanksgiving with your family and friends over the next few days. We are all hopeful for better days ahead and I am confident we will see them. Remember the good we all have in our lives and in our community. We are truly blessed with our strong workforce, excellent infrastructure and visionary community leaders. I hope you have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

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