



Fall - 2007

Intuit Addresses EDC Luncheon

We provide solutions. Solutions for complex problems. A solution for every problem you would have as a small business.

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Economic Development Projects

New Requests for Information: 30
 Active Projects: 28
 Projects Under Construction: 6
 Completed Projects: 2

Active Projects By Type

Agricultural Related: 4
 Manufacturing: 13
 High Tech 6
 Retail Development 2
 Transportation: 1
 Local Expansions: 2

Impacts of Active Projects

Estimated New Jobs: Over 950
 Estimated Wages: \$60 million
 Total Project Values: \$18 billion



Frank Gaff, Director of Enterprise & Data Center Operations for Intuit, teamed up with Bruce Eisele, Intuit's Quincy Data Center Manager, to update the EDC membership on their project in Quincy.

Close to 100 people turned out to hear the story of Intuit, how they started, how they have grown, and what their plans are for the future.

Founded in 1983 with the hugely popular personal finance software Quicken, Intuit quickly grew and went public in 1993. Today Intuit offers Quickbooks and dozens of other finance software solutions for virtually every aspect of small business. Add to this Quicken and TurboTax and you have a company that is a world leader in financial software.


Net revenue in 2007 was \$2.67 billion and Intuit once again made number 1 on Fortune's list as "America's Most Admired Software Company" for the second year in a row.

When it comes to Intuit's journey

to Grant County, Gaff continually cited government, county, city, and community support as vital to their decision to locate in Quincy.

Gaff explained that they could build the data center anywhere there was a piece of land big enough, but they wanted to locate in a community where they were wanted. He said they found that in Quincy.

The data center will be 227,000 square feet upon completion. When it becomes operational next year it will utilize one fifth of its designed capacity and will grow as Intuit does.

Construction is on schedule and will continue throughout the fall with the roof going on in January. The facility will be operational in fall of 2008. 

[Watch the Video](#)



Highway 17 Widening Nears Completion


With most of the roadwork completed all that remains is the installation of the sound barrier between Highway 17 and S. Clover Dr.



Construction work to widen State Highway 17 between Pioneer Road and Stratford Road in Moses Lake is almost complete.

Work began last September after a groundbreaking ceremony attended by Senator Joyce Mulliken who was instrumental in making the project a reality.

The widening of the highway has created a four lane route from I-90 to industrial businesses located in the Wheeler Corridor and at the Grant County International Airport.


Funding for the project totaled over \$20 million with the contract for construction being awarded to Central Washington Asphalt. 

Downtown Moses Lake Redevelopment



A dance performance at the new Sinkiuse Square draws a large crowd to downtown Moses Lake

Downtown Moses Lake has a new look including wider sidewalks, flowers and landscaping, permanent art sculptures, water features, public rest rooms, and a town square where concerts or dances can be held.

The development is one piece of a broader branding strategy to market Moses Lake as a tourists destination and increase traffic downtown. 

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Career One Stop Center Opens its Doors



Staffed with 45 employees from 9 different workforce agencies, the new Career One Stop Center in Moses Lake is officially open for business.

Albert Garza, Administrator for the Central Basin WorkSource, gave the EDC an in-depth tour that highlighted the features and benefits of the new facility.

Garza led the way through training room after training room full of students at computers. Other training rooms in the center could be combined to form one big training room that is capable of seating 120 people comfortably.

These rooms are used to teach computer skills, community college classes, youth courses, or any other customized training that is needed. They are also used to host job clinics and skills assessments.

Most impressive was the main lobby (pictured right). The lobby is a wide open area with computers and kiosks that job seekers can access to search for job and training opportunities.

Adjacent to the lobby is a group of spacious well designed cubicles where most of the partner agencies

are located. The larger cubicles allow for better interaction with clients and increased confidentiality.

Another advantage of the center in maintaining client confidentiality are two new Confidential Rooms that can be used for job interviews, applying for unemployment, or any other client interaction that requires privacy.

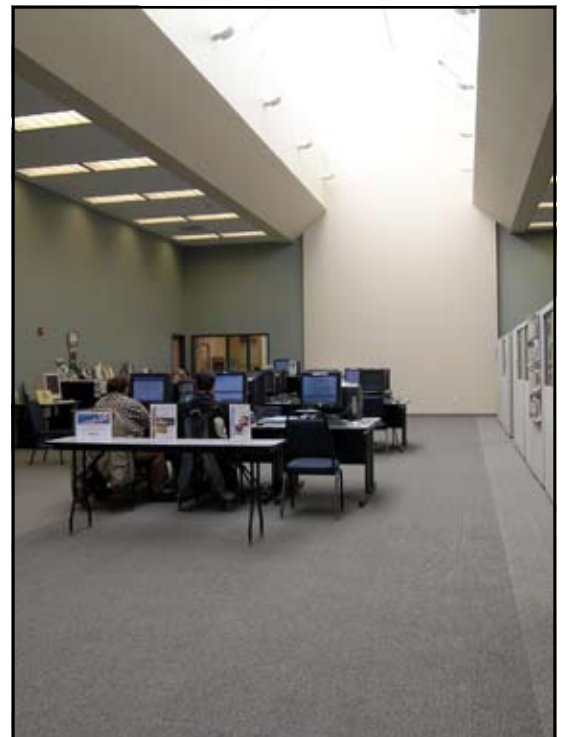
A recent success story from the center is the new Business Services Room. Here staff can track people on unemployment who have skills in occupations that have open job opportunities. By matching those on unemployment with jobs requiring skills they possess the center was able to help 40 people go back to work.

Partners inside the new center include; WorkSource, SkillSource, Big Bend Community College, the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, Grant Mental Health, Job Corps., the Employment Security Department, the American Association of Retired Persons, and the Occupational Opportunities Industrialization Center.



There is no more important item for economic development than workforce training.

Terry Brewer, Grant County EDC



The lobby of the new One Stop Career Center



Local Business Climate Report

Between January 2006 and June 2007 the EDC gathered information from 41 companies about how the county is as a place to do business. We talked with CEO's, plant managers, and human resource managers on issues important to them and their day to day business.

The type of companies we visited were manufacturing, food processing, transportation, and other related industries. The companies visited represent a total of 3,832 employees with the average number of employees per company being 93.

27 (66%) of the companies indicated their sales are increasing; 25 (61%) of the companies indicated their market share is increasing; and 24 (59%) of the companies are planning to expand in the next three years adding 827 new jobs and over \$800 million in investment to our county.

For more information on the business climate report please contact Jonathan Smith at 509-764-6579 or jonathan@grantedc.com.



[Download a copy of the summary report](#)

Average Utility Satisfaction Score	
Ranked on a scale of 1 of to 7 (1=low, 7=high)	
Water	5.23
Sewer	4.80
Natural Gas	4.79
Electric	5.51
Telecom	4.88
Cellular	4.86
Internet Access	5.09
Internet Speed	5.18

Community Strengths & Weaknesses (Ranked by the number of companies that indicated the topic was a strength or weakness)			
Strengths		Weaknesses	
Low Business Costs	19	Lack of Skilled Labor	11
Workforce Attributes	8	Infrastructure	7
Positive Business Climate	7	Lack of Retail Diversity	6
Stable Community & Economy	6	Lack of Business Services	5
Infrastructure	3	Lack of Community Services	3
Location	3	Negative Business Climate	2
Quality of Life	3	Transportation Network	2
Customer Access	2	Customer Access	2
Transportation Network	2	High Business Costs	1
Business Services	1	Affordable Housing	1
Community Leadership	1	Lack of Unskilled Labor	1

Average Workforce Evaluation Score	
Ranked on a scale of 1 of to 7 (1=low, 7=high)	
Availability	3.60
Quality	4.55
Stability	4.68
Productivity	5.22





Duel in the Desert & Party on the Green

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The Grant County EDC would like to thank the many sponsors who helped make this years event a success.



Joe Malay provided a golf clinic for both the youth and adults



Frontier Title welcomed golfers to the 18th Hole



The Columbia Basin Herald Golf Team

**Next Years Event Will Be August 1st & 2nd
Call 509-764-6579 to reserve your tickets**





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