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Recent Happenings

Attended Inland Northwest Aerospace Coalition Spring meeting in Spokane

Presented to Sunrise Rotary with an update of EDC activities and an introduction to the Young Professionals of the Columbia Basin

Co-hosted luncheon with Adams County Development Council on Adams and Grant County labor economies

Toured Columbia Basin Technical Skill Center with Microsoft

Assembled team for the 2015 RECon show in Las Vegas

Met with district elected officials about infrastructure and workforce development projects in Grant County

Celebrating a Year of Success



Attendees from across the county gathered at the EDC's annual banquet to celebrate the successes of the first year of Building Prosperity.

Tom Heath, co-chair of the Building Prosperity effort highlighted some of the more noteworthy accomplishments of 2014 including SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers and Microsoft's continued expansion of their existing facilities, AstaReal and Amway Nutrilite commencing operations, and Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation announcing Grant County International Airport as the location where it will certify its new regional jet. Collectively these companies will employ close to 750 employees when they are fully operational.

Looking to the future, Tom outlined the work that remains to be done to continue

this growth and ensure our communities continue to add jobs and investment. During 2015 EDC staff will:

- Engage with local businesses to ensure their needs are being met and the resources they need to grow into international markets are available
- Assist entrepreneurs and small business start-up's with business planning, financing, and marketing
- Deliver the Grant County marketing message to site selectors and companies across the globe

Following Tom's remarks Kris Johnson, President of the Association of Washington Businesses, gave a presentation on the state of the economy in Washington and key issues facing businesses this legislative session.

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Grant County at JEC Europe Composite Conference



The BMW i8 at the SGL Group booth in Paris France.

Paris, France – Emily Braunwart, Business Recruitment Manager of the Grant County EDC traveled with the Washington State Delegation to the

JEC Europe Composite Conference which was held March 10-12.

Braunwart was able to connect with a company the EDC has been working with since last year. Braunwart was also able to identify new and emerging sub industries within the composite industry. “It was very exciting to be learning about all these other industries that we didn’t even know exist,” said Braunwart, “I can’t wait to learn more about their needs and if they will be a good fit for Grant County.”

The conference boasted over 36,000 attendees, which makes it the largest composite show in the world. Companies ranging from resin manufacturing to carbon fiber manufacturers to machinery to natural composite manufacturers were all present.

A lifestyle section displayed many of the objects that are used in everyday life which are made from composites. Skis, bicycles and fly fishing poles were some of the objects on display. There was also a shell of a car made out of only 5 parts and glued together. A company from the Netherlands is working with a steel composite mixture to make a lighter bucket for front loaders. This lighter bucket allows the machine to carry a larger load while at the same time cost ten percent less to operate.

“It was an exciting show to be at,” said Braunwart. “I’m so glad Grant County was able to be a part of it all.”



New designs: working with carbon fiber to make the front loader bucket lighter to carry a heavier load and operate for less.



Entrepreneur Conference: Small Business is Everyone's Business!



Efforts are underway to strengthen the business support network so that it works more seamlessly and allows entrepreneurs and small

businesses to grow and thrive.

Erik Pages a leader in rural entrepreneurship through EntreWorks will be the key note presenter at an

entrepreneur conference. He will be discussing best practices and policies that organizations and civic leaders across the country have designed and implemented to create a straightforward path to small business success.

The conference will be held April 17 from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm at the Othello Community Hospital and provides an opportunity to engage with a national expert, add value to existing rural businesses, and encourage new entrepreneurs. Other speakers will include a panel of local small businesses

and entrepreneurs that have started businesses in the region.

The Grant County Economic Development Council and the Adams County Development Council are co-hosting the event that is sponsored by Washington State University Extension. Registration is \$25 and includes lunch. Registration can be done online at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1337363>.

Tuition-Free Training Opportunities for Manufacturing Employees

A new \$2.7 million federal grant is helping manufacturing businesses across Washington pay for worker training through Washington State University and Highline and Shoreline Colleges at nearly no cost.

All training is online and aimed at boosting staff productivity. Classes are available in even the most rural places, where enhancing employee skills is critical, but difficult. Courses are offered at both the undergraduate and graduate level for; Project Management, Supervisory Leadership, Supply Chain

Management, Six Sigma, Lean Agility, Global Trade & Logistics, and more.

“This is another resource available to manufacturing businesses in Grant County to help them with the continuing education of their workforce,” said Jonathan Smith, Executive Director of the Grant County EDC. “We already have a great training asset with Big Bend Community College and this grant adds to that by providing access to courses that were previously inaccessible in an online format.”

The program requires that employee students develop an education plan with

their employer, maintain a certain GPA, and pay for the textbooks for the courses. Employers are responsible for paying application fees and allowing employees adequate time, supplies, and tools to complete the education plan. Tuition for the classes is covered by the grant.

Businesses that would like to participate in the program should contact Mike Brennan, the Grant Manager for the Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board, at (360) 709-4616.



Partners & Investors

Founders Circle (\$75,000+ up)

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City of Moses Lake
City of Quincy
Grant County
Grant County PUD
Port of Moses Lake
Port of Quincy

Platinum Division (\$50,000-\$74,999)

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Columbia Basin Herald
Microsoft Corporation
Samaritan Healthcare
Washington Trust Bank
Yahoo!

Gold Division (\$25,000-\$49,999)

Chemi-Con Materials
Confluence Medical
Genie Industries
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McKinstry Co., LLC

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City of Ephrata
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Bronze Division (\$2,500-\$14,999)

Accredited Appraisals
Agri/Com Appraisals
Alsted Real Estate
Argus Insurance
Aviation Technical Services
B & D Communications
Basic American Foods
Barrett Business Services, Inc. (BBSI)
Belle Enterprises Inc.
Big Bend Community College
Canfield & Associates
Cayuse Lake View Home Sites
Central Bonded Collectors
City of Electric City
City of George
City of Royal City
City of Soap Lake
City of Warden
Coldwell Banker Tomlinson Ranch & Home
Columbia Basin Development League
Columbia Basin Job Corp

Bronze Division Continued

Columbia Basin Railroad
Columbia Colstor, Inc.
Columbia Electrical Supply
Columbia Glass Inc.
Columbia Northwest Engineering
Consolidated Disposal Service, Inc.
Dano Law Firm, PS
Express Employment Professionals
Gary Mann Real Estate
General Dynamics—OTS
Guild Mortgage Company
Horizon Credit Union
Housing Authority of Grant County
Inland Cellular
Inland Tarp & Liner, LLC
ITC Services, Inc.
J & M Electric
JR Newhouse Co., PLLP
Key Bank
Lad Irrigation Co., Inc.
Lamb Weston, BSW
Landau Associates, Inc.
LC Farms, Inc.
Lenroc Company
Live Nation-Gorge Amphitheatre
Mardon Resort
Martin Morris Agency
Million Air Moses Lake
Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce
Moses Lake Community Health Center
Moses Lake School District
National Frozen Foods
North Central Washington Fence
Northland Communications
Penhallurick's True Value
Pillar Rock Grill/Moses Lake Golf Club
Polhamus Heating & Air Conditioning
Port of Coulee City
Port of Hartline
Port of Royal Slope
Port of Seattle
Port of Warden
Quincy Farm Chemicals, Inc.
Quincy Foods
Rock Steel Structures
SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers
Skaug Brothers, Inc.
Skone & Conners
Tommer Constructions Co., Inc.
Tommer Equipment Co., Inc.
Total Employment & Management (TEAM)

Bronze Division Continued

Town of Coulee City
Trask Insurance Inc.
Umpqua Bank
Western Pacific Engineering
Western Polymer Corporation
Windermere K-2 Realty
Work Source Moses Lake Affiliate
Zip Truck Lines, Inc.

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