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3rd Annual Outbound Trade Mission March 24 to 31



Hong Kong, China

The Grant County EDC and Small Business Development Center are conducting their third outbound trade mission. Representatives, Allan Peterson and Vern Jenkins will be out of country March 24 to 31, and are planning to take 10 to 12 businesses to Seoul, South Korea; Hong Kong; Macau and Zhuhai, China. This will be an excellent trip for value added agriculture companies. The Macau and Zhuhai area is high end hospitality and will have a lot of opportunities. Because of the 34 mile bridge between Macau and Hong Kong!

Peterson and Jenkins will be assisting those who want to go with the Department of Commerce STEP grant applications. These are reimbursable grant dollars to offset some of the costs associated with the trip.

To set up Business to Business (B2B) meetings, the Grant County EDC will be able to utilize the Washington Department of Agriculture contractors in Korea and Hong Kong. Peterson and Jenkins were able to attend a



Zhuhai, China Free Trade Zone

trade show in Seattle where they met local Macau and Zhuhai chamber of commerce contacts, who will be assisting in B2B meetings. And of course contacts at the Korea International Trade Association will help to set up match making meetings.

The impacts from last year's outbound trade mission has amounted to over \$9 million to Grant County.

Special guests from the Office of International Trade at the Small Business Administration in Washington and the Washington Department of Agriculture are considering partnering and attending this trip.

More to come on this 2018 outbound B2B trade mission.

If you are an interested company and would like to get more information; please contact Allan at Grant County Economic Development Council: Phone 509-762-6040 or email allan.peterson@wsbdc.org.



World Trade Center Macau, China



Soul, South Korea



Washington State Passes Capital Budget and Hirst Fix

On the evening of January 19, 2018 members of the Washington State Legislature in Olympia were able to come to an agreement on the Hirst Decision, which in turn smoothed over the process to pass the Washington State Capital Budget.

The passage of Senate Bill 6091 will have many effects on Grant County. "The bill provides a path forward for people who just want to build on their few acres," said Senator Judy Warnick who was the lead negotiator. The original passage of the Hirst Bill put restrictions on the new wells that could be drilled in Washington, effecting economic development in rural Washington.

Many projects in Grant County will be

able to start now that the Washington State Capital Budget has been also passed.

The City of Ephrata will be able to move forward with the \$3.2 million waterline project along Basin Street; which was originally built in the 1950s.

The Port of Quincy's road project into Industrial Park #5 can proceed forward. As well as the City of George's waterline project into the same industrial park. These projects will be able to help attract more business into the area around the City of George.

Big Bend Community College's Professional Technical Education Center has also been at the top of the



list for capital projects to be funded by the state's capital budget. Big Bend originally applied as was approved for the capital budget in 2014.

To learn more about the Hirst Decision and how that effected the state's capital budget follow this [link](#).

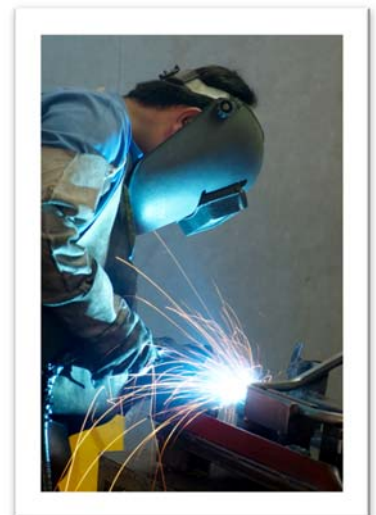
Washington State Department of Commerce Skilled Worker Awareness Program

Washington State Department of Commerce launched a new program intended to increase the number of the Washington workforce to receive education and training that leads to certificates, associate's degrees, and other credentials recognized by local industry.

Organizations and government agencies involved in recruiting and outreach efforts for worker training are encouraged to apply for grants to help more workers gain needed skills.

The Skilled Worker Awareness program has \$70,000 to distribute, with priority given to projects that range from \$20,000 to \$35,000. A matching cash contribution of two dollars for each one dollar of the grant is required.

The deadline to apply is February 21. For more information or contact information see the Department of Commerce's [website](#).





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Founders Circle (\$75,000+ up)

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

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Columbia Northwest Engineering
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