

## Table of Contents

- 1) Dale Pomeroy
- 2) STEM Culture
- 3) Rail Service
- 4) Yahoo Expansion
- 5) Partners & Investors

### Contact Us:

Physical Address: Grant County EDC, 6594 Patton Blvd NE, Moses Lake, WA 98837

Billing Address: PO Box 2359, Moses Lake WA 98837

Phone: 509-764-6579 Fax: 509-762-5161

Email: [emily@grantedc.com](mailto:emily@grantedc.com) [allan.peterson@wsbdc.org](mailto:allan.peterson@wsbdc.org)



## Dale Pomeroy Gives Back to the Community

Dale Pomeroy likes to tell stories. One he tells is when he was working harvest with his father and, at 6 o'clock, the older man parked the truck. Dale asked why. "We're in harvest" one of the busiest times of the year. His father said he had to go to a meeting. "You give back to the community," he father said. "You leave the community better than you found it."

Pomeroy, now a retired farmer, has taken that advice to heart. Pomeroy is a current commissioner at the Port of Warden, on the board of directors of the Warden Development League, the Columbia Basin Development League, and is in his fifth year on the board of the Grant County Economic Development Council where he is a past president. He's served in numerous alfalfa organizations and is a past supervisor of the Warden Conservation District.

"I believe in them," he says about all the organizations he has helped. Because he was a small farmer, he says he couldn't leave the farm to his kids. So he wants to grow the local economy so the "kids can come back to Moses Lake and make a living here."

Pomeroy, now 68, moved from Nebraska to the Othello/Warden area in 1959 when he was in sixth grade. He attended Othello schools and also studied agriculture at Yakima Valley College and Big Bend Community College. In 1970 he started farming on his own. He always grew specialty crops, he explains, such as seed corn and wheat seed. He started with sugar beets, supplying the sugar plant in Moses Lake. Because his father did cattle, he wouldn't, and became a row crop farmer. "Couldn't do what Dad did, that's against the rules," he says with his usual humor. But, he points out, the sugar beet tops were great cattle feed. When the plant closed in 1978 that "almost put me out of business," he says. Another bad year was 1981 when Mt. St. Helens erupted, dumping fine ash all over the county. "There was a lot of money lost on that deal," he explains.

The independence of farming was what Pomeroy enjoyed. Then he adds, smiling, "the poverty." "It's a miracle of God," he says of his crops growing. And, he adds, he learned a lot. Being part

of organizations, he went to Washington D.C. and learned how things work there, for example.

The challenges he faced were "prices" and having no control over the weather. He

says it's better than in Nebraska, though. His father would have a beautiful crop, and then a hailstorm, or a drought, or a flood would wipe it out.

Pomeroy got involved in the Grant County EDC because he got mad. The EDC put out an advertisement about the economy in the county and Pomeroy noticed there was no agriculture mentioned. So he went to a meeting and brought that up. Then EDC Executive Director Terry Brewer asked him to join the board as a representative of agriculture. Later, he was asked to represent the agriculture industry on the executive committee.

"They now support agriculture," Pomeroy says of the EDC. He says the EDC "put together" the canola oil plant in Warden which took many years. "They really help in small communities. That was my emphasis: reach out to rural." Pomeroy wants everyone to know that it's not just a "Moses Lake EDC" but for the whole county. And, "they create jobs my kids would come home to." Then he smiles and adds: "And now grandkids and great-grandkids."

Pomeroy's father told him "If you can't pay a living wage, get out of business." So Pomeroy always did, he says. He tells the story of a man who got hurt on his farm and





## BBCC Creates New “STEM Culture”

A new “STEM culture” has emerged at Big Bend Community College as a result of a federal grant now in its fifth and final year.

The college has recorded a 200-percent increase in student use of the STEM Center this year. With glass walls and abundant natural light, the center provides 62 hours per week of tutoring and supplemental instruction. Demand is so great, the center is open on Sundays.

The \$4.4 million U.S. Dept. of Education Title III Grant for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) helped the college provide new resources for students enrolled in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

College-level math courses were redesigned, new advising strategies were implemented, and pre-engineering pathways were developed to change the way students feel about STEM. Changes in the ways students access academic support have had a huge impact, according to college officials.

The college has greatly exceeded the goal of the grant to get more Hispanic students enrolled in STEM programs. There were 24 Hispanic students enrolled in STEM programs at BBCC in 2008-09. By 2014-15, that number increased to 473 Hispanic students enrolled in STEM classes, according to college officials.

Distance (online) STEM enrollment increased from 150 FTEs in 2008-09 to 428 FTEs in 2014-15, again greatly exceeding the grant’s target.

Study groups are common in the STEM Center. They are not quiet. This is not the library. “It is a healthy, vibrant learning environment,” said Sarah Adams, Math Instructional Specialist. “Students are encouraged to be engaged.”

Tutors roam the STEM Center helping students with math, biology, chemistry, physics, environmental science, and engineering coursework. Math/science

instructors schedule office hours in the center to meet with students at round tables. Supplemental instruction is taught by advanced students, while calculus students sit at a row of computers preparing for a test at the other end of the room.

Students write equations with markers on the glass walls (then wipe the glass clean). “It is the only place on campus where students can write on the walls and not get in trouble,” said Rafael Villalobos, Jr., STEM Support Specialist. “It gives students a sense of ownership of this space.”

The college used the grant to implement the pre-college math model known as Emporium, which has received widespread recognition for greatly increasing BBCC student success in completing developmental math courses.

The computer software-based Emporium model helped increase student success rates in developmental math from a little less than 50 percent to nearly 80 percent. The lab has computers for 62 students with up to seven sections offered per quarter.

“Math is a gatekeeper for so many professions,” said James Saucedo, STEM Grant Director. “If a student can’t pass college-level math, they can’t be a nurse, an accountant, a computer technician, or an engineer.”

It is common for BBCC students in the Emporium lab to pass two developmental math classes (10 credits) in one academic quarter while paying for one five-credit class—helping students save time and money. As more students pass developmental math, more students enroll in college-level math classes.

BBCC has partnered with the engineering teams of local industries like Genie, REC, and SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers to better inform students of local STEM opportunities and occupations.

“There are many more STEM jobs in the local economy that have come with industrial diversification,” Saucedo said. “Our students can become engineers and get a job near their home town.”



This fall, enrollment in engineering physics at BBCC is at an all-time high. The college had waiting lists for calculus classes for the first time in its history in the fall of 2014, so more calculus sections were added.

Sections of pre-calculus I increased from three to 11, sections of pre-calculus II increased from one to five, and sections of statistics classes increased from four to 12.

Other STEM Center services include educational planning, assistance in applying for scholarships, mentoring, and guidance for transferring to a university.

BBCC is eligible to receive Title V grants for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) because of the demographics and income levels in its service district population. HSI grants have goals and strategies for helping more Hispanic students complete college degrees. The support services and benefits derived from HSI grants are available to all students and residents of BBCC’s service district.



## Bringing Rail Service to Port is “Foresighted”



Wheeler corridor, would be new line that would be built on new right-of-way. But that requires getting the right-of-way from property owners. Segment two is also new line, but that would be built near the airport and most of that land is already owned by the Port. Finally, the third segment is existing line owned by Columbia Basin Railroad that runs parallel to Highway 17.

"This county has a history of being foresighted," says Port of Moses Lake Executive Director Jeffery Bishop. "We're reaping the benefits today because someone stuck their neck out." He cites the Columbia River dams, buying the airport from the government, and building the fiber optic network in the county.

Now Bishop and the Port of Moses Lake are working on what Bishop hopes is another farsighted project that will reap benefits in the future: bringing rail service to the Grant County Airport.

It won't be easy, says Bishop. "It's very very very complicated." The Washington State legislature has allocated \$20.9 million over three bienniums, or six years. But this biennium, they only authorized \$1 million. Getting the rest of the money, Bishop says, is dependent on the state being in good financial health in the future and being able to issue the bonds necessary to acquire the funds.

Bishop says the first stage of the project, acquiring permits, is in "good shape" since that process was started in 2009. The only part not permitted is building a new bridge over Crab Creek. But, Bishop explains, only 40% of the line is designed and they need to hire an engineer to design the rest.

The proposed new rail line is in three segments. The first, which is in the

That would need to be purchased or leased from CBRR. Also, it needs rehabilitating and, according to Bishop, there's not enough money to bring it up to the standard they would like and that the other two segments would have. That will be a bottleneck because it will slow down rail traffic on that segment.

Another aspect of the project is that it would allow the rail line in downtown Moses Lake to be abandoned. However, if the Port can't get the right-of-way for segment one, Bishop says, the rail line will have to remain through Moses Lake.

Another problem the Port is facing, Bishop says, is there's no way to design, permit, and get right-of-way for the \$1 million the state allocated this biennium. So the Port secured a line of credit with Umpqua Commercial Bank in Moses Lake "so we can go further," Bishop explains. "If we don't, we won't get it done in time."

The rail line has to be completed by 2019 because that's when the federal government's Surface Transportation Board authorization expires. That permitting was done in 2009 and lasts ten years.

And, the money the legislature allocated is not enough to do the project "as envisioned," Bishop explains.

But, says Bishop, it is worth it because the rail line to the airport will benefit Grant County. Many businesses that might come to the county and may locate at the Port will want rail access. According to Bishop, when Boeing was looking at building the 787 in Moses Lake, lack of rail access was a "huge strike" against it. "It provides another source of transportation that is cost effective," Bishop explains. He says "lots of companies" at the port could make use of it, now. When the port slowdown happened, SGL was shipping out product by air, Bishop explains. If rail were available, says Bishop, they could have shipped it by rail to another port such as Houston, and saved a lot of money. "Transportation is a three-legged stool," Bishop says, with air, trucking, and rail, "and we've been on a stool with two legs."



"We're very grateful for the leadership Senator Warnick displayed," Bishop says. "She battled hard to make sure this was in the budget." It was, Bishop adds, "A very farsighted thing."

"We may not see the return on the investment for a long time, but our children will," Bishop concludes.





## Yahoo Announces Expansion in Quincy

In October of this year, Yahoo announced they were expanding their data center in Quincy by adding about three hundred thousand square feet, or effectively doubling its size, according to a spokesperson for the company.

This expansion was driven by their expanding user base and focusing "on continuing to deliver the most innovative, fast, and reliable products and service to our users," the spokesperson explained. "By expanding our Quincy data center, we'll double down on our ability to deliver for our users."

According to the spokesperson for Yahoo, they chose to expand at Quincy as "a direct result of the unbeatable mix Quincy offers: impressive local talent, abundant renewable energy sources, and Washington State's commitment to creating an attractive business location."

The expansion at Quincy will increase employment at the facility which currently employs about 50 people. "We'll add on new positions over the coming year," the spokesperson said.

While the expansion will require more power, according to the spokesperson, Yahoo is "committed to using power



responsibly." As part of that commitment, the spokesperson explained that, "We've designed the new buildings in Quincy with efficiency in mind, leveraging our patented chicken coop design. Yahoo's chicken coop data centers utilize outside air to reduce the need for cooling power."

According to information from the Grant County Economic Development Council, data centers such as Yahoo's provide many economic benefits to the county. In 2006 the top ten property tax payers paid a total of \$4,246,801. In 2013, the most recent year information is available, Microsoft alone paid \$5,425,205 in property taxes. Of the top ten property tax payers in Grant County in 2013, half were data centers with a total tax paid of \$11,641,607.

In 2012 there were 409 people employed

by data centers in Grant County according to the EDC data. Since then there have been expansions at Microsoft and now the new Yahoo expansion. Data center jobs are better than average, the data shows. Data centers pay high wages, much higher than the county median wage of \$15 per hour. In 2012, over half of data center employees earn \$30 per hour or more. And 99% make more than \$15 per hour.

"Since 2007, Yahoo has been proud to call Quincy home," the Yahoo spokesperson said. "Over the last eight years, we've created jobs, and had a lasting, positive impact in the community by contributing to the growth of other small and medium-sized businesses, helping to keep families together by making sure talented daughters and sons have good paying jobs right here in Quincy."

Yahoo plans to have their new facility open by summer of 2016, the spokesperson added. "Our Quincy data center is one of our three owned and operated data centers in the United States, and a key component of our data center architecture, serving hundreds of millions of users across our country and around the world," the spokesperson concluded.

## Pomeroy Cont.

workers' compensation wasn't adequate to support his family, so Dale helped him out for two years until he got a good job outside of agriculture.

One of the biggest changes Pomeroy has seen is the growth of Grant County. He talks about driving on empty stretches of road that are now surrounded by farms or orchards. When he was younger, he says that people would say if the Air Force base ever closed, Moses Lake would go away. And then it closed. And people would say if the sugar plant closes, Moses Lake would, too. And the sugar plant went away. "Moses Lake survived," Pomeroy says.

"The little farmer is going away," Pomeroy adds. "I went away." He says that family farms now are huge by his standards, up to 4,000 acres. Seven-hundred acres, like he had at his peak, isn't enough to buy a new tractor, he explains. And "water issues are going to be huge," he says. "We need to keep water to these [processing] plants."

Pomeroy would like to see more fiber optic distribution around the county so maybe Warden or Moses Lake could have data centers like Quincy. He'd like to see more non-agricultural industry come to the county, especially Warden.

"We have maybe fifteen days that are miserable," Pomeroy says of the weather in Grant County. So he enjoys living here because of the climate. He likes the recreation opportunities, with the county having the most shoreline of any county in the state. He and his wife, Lanita, just bought a boat and enjoy walleye fishing. He likes that Moses Lake and Warden are centrally located between Spokane, Tri-Cities, Wenatchee, and Seattle. Having the time now to do it, he enjoys travel. When he and Lanita went to Denver to visit his daughter, they drove instead of flying, sight-seeing along the way. He hopes next year to visit Washington D.C., this time as a tourist, and spend maybe a month there.



# Partners & Investors

## Founders Circle (\$75,000+ up)

ASPI Group  
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)

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

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

Chemi-Con Materials  
Confluence Health  
Genie Industries  
Hayden Homes  
McKinstry Co., LLC

## Silver Division (\$15,000-\$24,999)

AKZO Nobel  
City of Ephrata  
CliftonLarsonAllen LLP  
Port of Ephrata  
Port of Mattawa  
REC Silicon

## 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.  
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  
Columbia Basin Railroad  
Columbia Electrical Supply  
Columbia Glass Inc.  
Columbia Northwest Engineering

## Bronze Division Continued

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  
Linage Logistics  
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  
Northland Communications  
Northwest Farm Credit Services  
Pillar Rock Grill/Moses Lake Golf Club  
Polhamus Heating & Air Conditioning  
Port of Coulee City  
Port of Hartline  
Port of Royal Slope  
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.  
Total Employment & Management (TEAM)  
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.

## Friends of the EDC

Justin Ashley  
Steve Ausere  
David Bailey

## Friends of the EDC Continued

Susie Barr  
Terry Brewer  
Jane Dickinson  
Randy Dickinson  
Dick Ealing  
Jeff Foster  
Frances Irwin  
Rory Knapp  
Denise Lefler  
Fred Lischka  
Don Long  
Alan Lunderburg  
Col. Clyde Owen  
Dale Pomeroy  
Jeff Railton  
Sheldon Townsend  
Pat Wold

## Board of Directors

Juanita Richards, Horizon Credit Union, President  
Ray Towry, City of Ephrata, Vice President  
Char McDowell, TEAM, Secretary  
LeAnne Parton, BBCC Foundation, Treasure  
Gary Ash, National Frozen Foods, Past President  
Chuck Berrie, Grant County PUD  
Juliann Dodds, Umpqua Bank  
Rick Heiberg, City of Coulee City  
Kent Jones, Port of Moses Lake  
Brian Kuest, Port of Quincy  
Jon Lane, City of Moses Lake  
Eric LaFontaine, Columbia Basin Herald  
Pat Millard, Port of Warden  
Alice Parker, Columbia Basin Development League  
Irene Plenefisch, Microsoft  
Dale Pomeroy, Pomeroy Farms  
Marvin Price, LambWeston/BSW  
Reed Raymond, Hayden Homes  
Chris Romm, BBSI  
Theresa Sullivan, Samaritan Healthcare  
Carolann Swartz, Grant County