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City of George Benefits from Microsoft Donation

The City of George, WA will be able to have high speed fiber thanks in part to the generous donation from Microsoft of \$200,000 to the Grant County PUD.



George is located directly on Interstate 90, but is the only incorporated community in Grant County that currently does not have access to the fiber-optics network. About 70 percent of the county currently has access to the fiber network, besides the City of George, the remaining 30 percent of the county is mostly remote areas that make it harder and more expensive to deliver the fiber to.

Former Grant County Economic Development Council (GCEDC) board member and, Senior Manager of Wholesale Fiber, Thomas Stredwick said, "We are fortunate to have a community partner like Microsoft that is willing to support the expansion of fiber to the residents of our rural community. Partnerships like these are going to be critical going forward with expansion to the remaining unserved pockets of our county. "

Grant County PUD Commissioners have allocated \$7 Million in the 2018 budget for the fiber expansion. This will be a starting point, and more work on the expansion will be done after the 2018 budget.

Effective broadband helps communities grow and remain a location of choice to live and do business. For the City of George, this will impact not only the businesses but also the residents. "To be able to partner with Grant County PUD and help bring broadband to the community is Microsoft's privilege," commented Lisa Karstetter, GCEDC board member and manager Microsoft TechSpark Washington. "As more schools and classrooms are moving towards online textbooks and assignments, it is harder for rural students to keep up and get ahead in their school work. By pushing out broadband to areas that didn't have it before, it is our hope that those students can have the tools to stay competitive as they move into the technology driven workforce."





GCEDC Launches New Website

The Grant County Economic Development Council (GCEDC) engaged Hagadon Digital to help relaunch the website. It can be found at www.grantedc.com.

The goal for the new website is to provide an easy to navigate, one stop

location for our community and potential industry to come and explore the benefits of Grant County, WA.

The new website is mobile friendly, highlights our local industries and demographics.

“We are continually looking for ways to improve our site and are pleased to have the new site up and running,” said GCEDC executive director, Brant Mayo.

The website is typically the first impression a site selector has of a community. And with today’s on the go economy, it’s import to have a mobile friendly website. Site selectors know what they are looking for and if it is not easy to find, they will simply move on to the next location.

Highlighting the region, industries and location is how the GCEDC is striving to make sure the local businesses as well as the potential industries are able to find all the information that they need to choose Grant County.



Half Day Export Workshop in Mattawa

The Grant County Economic Development Council (GCEDC) and Small Business Development Center (SBDC) held a half day Export Workshop in Mattawa. The Port of Mattawa hosted the event on March 22, 2018 . Allan Peterson and Washington SBDC International Trade Specialist Vern Jenkins lead the workshop.

The attendees were value added agriculture businesses. Topics included introduction to exporting and how the SBDC works with clients

in no charge advising. Also covered was how the logistics of the upcoming outbound trade mission to Korea, Hong Kong, Macau and Zhuhai, China is done. WSBDC International Trade Specialist Vern Jenkins said, "Exporting is real boost to rural areas doing business outside the country bringing in outside revenue."

The GCEDC and SBDC plan to do more half day workshops targeting industry clusters such as this value added agriculture workshop. The next ones on the list are aerospace and hay producers.





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)

Central Terminals LLC
Columbia Basin Herald
Microsoft Corporation
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Oath:

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

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

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

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Basic American Foods
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Belle Enterprises Inc.
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Clear Risk Solutions
Coldwell Banker Tomlinson Ranch & Home
Columbia Basin Development League
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Columbia Electrical Supply
Columbia Glass Inc.
Columbia Northwest Engineering
Consolidated Disposal Service, Inc.
Dano Law Firm, PS
Express Employment Professionals

Bronze Division Continued

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General Dynamics—OTS
Guild Mortgage Company
Horizon Credit Union
Housing Authority of Grant County
Hub International
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
Polhamus Heating & Air Conditioning
Port of Coulee City
Port of Hartline
Port of Royal Slope
Port of Warden
Quincy Foods
Rock Steel Structures
SGL Automotive Carbon Fibers
Skaug Brothers, Inc.
Skone & Conners
Total Employment & Management (TEAM)
Town of Coulee City
Trask Insurance Inc.
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Western Polymer Corporation
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