

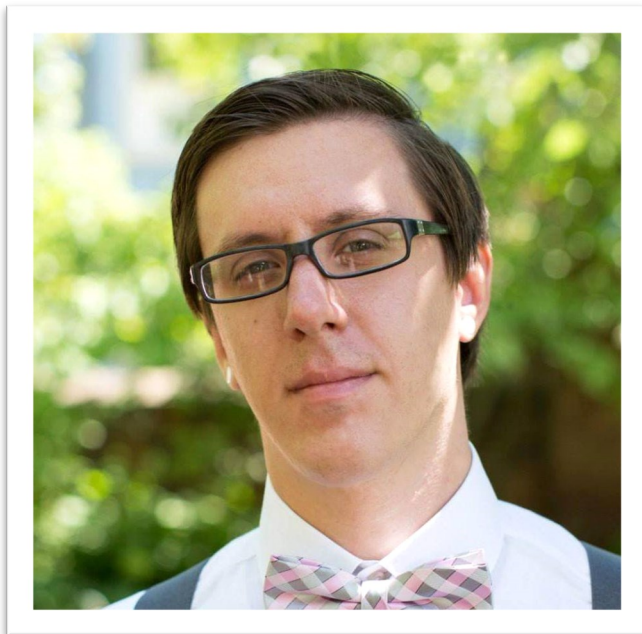


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*Nic Thurston BIO*

Grant County EDC has hired on Nic Thurston as their new Director of Business Development and Communication. Nic recently moved west from Kentucky back in December having recently graduated with his Master's Degree in Information, Communication and Technology at the University of Kentucky. He started his position at the EDC in mid-March and is already making an impact with reaching the community. Having proficiency in both technology and design, he will be wearing many hats with his new position including graphic design, marketing, research, web development and many more!

He has a background in the arts and design, working as a writer, a graphic designer and a freelance artist. Nic likes to read in his free time, as well as play a variety of video games on many different platforms. He enjoys music as well as all things technology!

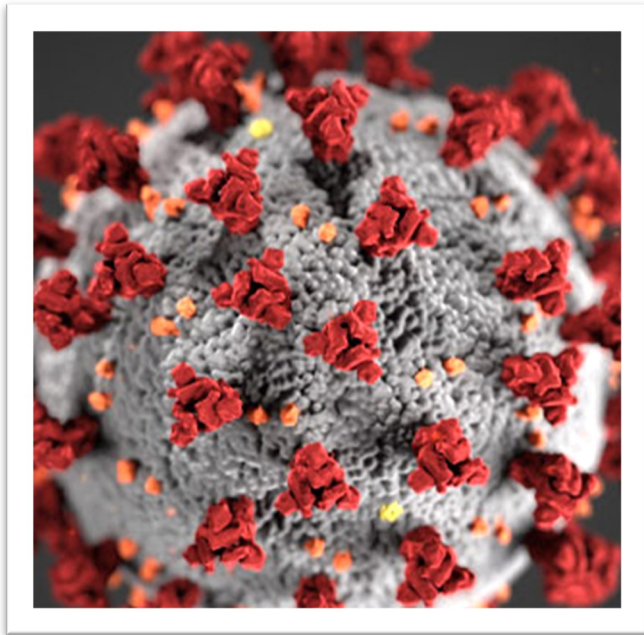
## The EDC Welcomes Nic Thurston

With his love of technology, Nic has worked on projects that have the potential to change millions of lives. Currently he is working with a team back in Kentucky on a Virtual Reality program that is being designed to help ease the burden of pediatric cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. The chemotherapy brings about nausea and other physical symptoms as well as mental ones, and the program aims to use "Distraction Theory" to successfully comfort kids undergoing extremely difficult treatments.

Nic is also an avid hiker and biker, and was glad to make the move west to the beautiful scenery surrounding Grant County. The move west was preceded by his Wife interviewing for and accepting the position of PA at the Samaritan Clinic in Moses Lake. Their three-year-old daughter, Freya, has been having a blast in the surrounding area and with the polite nature of everyone. His family have been hiking on several trails in Grant County, with Freya happily hiking more than half of each walk!



## Grant County EDC COVID-19 Support Page



Many of our community members know how often things are changing, and we want you to know how quickly we are working to ensure everyone have the most up-to-date facts as possible.

We have also set up a survey for businesses to fill out who have been impacted by COVID-19. With the survey, they can express what difficulties they are having including layoffs, closures and overall productivity impanctions.

We at the GCEDC are always looking for more information that is important for our communities, please feel free to share any and all information you have about the pandemic- it could be something we haven't yet seen!

The Grant County Economic Development Council has set up a one-stop location for COVID-19 resources, both for business and the general public. The list is updated almost daily with local, state and federal information. News about the Coronavirus is changing hands very often, so it is important to have a central location for people to go for information.



## Grant County EDC Business Impact Webinar

In addition to providing the community with relevant COVID-19 links, the Grant County Economic Development Council has also been hosting a weekly webinar targeted at business who have been negatively affected by the Coronavirus.

The webinar consists of several individuals who are given roughly five to ten minutes to talk about what Washington is doing about the virus and options businesses might have to better deal with their individual circumstances.

Participants are able to ask questions as well as fill out a questionnaire after the presentation, and the speakers attempt to answer as many questions as possible during the webinar.

The webinars usually last an hour, and have seen 70-100+ participants each time. Participants are provided with the PowerPoint used during the webinar, contact information for the speakers and they can even view a full recording of the webinar if they could not make the meeting time.

The GCEDC hosts the webinar through Zoom, and invites are sent out days in advance to reach as many community members as possible. These meetings take place every Thursday at 3:30 and are open to the general public. Links to the webinar get posted on the GCEDC website, the Facebook page and are often forwarded on by various agencies in and around Grant County. We hope to do these webinars as long as necessary so that the public have an avenue to get their questions answered.



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