



Media Advisory – May 1, 2009

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Reardon hosts summit for entrepreneurs, venture capitalists

On May 13, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon will engage a panel of the state's most influential business angels, architects and builders of future industry in a discussion on improving our state's business climate.

This is the second in a series of free summits Reardon is hosting during 2009 to improve the state's global competitiveness. The focus of these summits is primarily on jobs, housing and healthcare, particularly important during these harshest of economic times.

In February, Reardon brought together more than 200 builders, developers, legislators and industry analysts to discuss economic factors hindering new residential and commercial construction.

“Keeping the Puget Sound region and Washington state competitive is key to reviving this sluggish economy and to maintaining our international trade edge,” Reardon said. “To do this, our state's business environment must strengthen our existing companies, and support the architects and builders of the world's next generation industries.”

“Not until this most recent economic collapse have many of us really understood the meaning of ‘global economics,’” said Donna Ambrose, the county's economic development program manager. “The reshuffling of the world's economy has many corporations and jurisdictions moving quickly to reinvent their competitiveness strategies. Those that can adapt quickly will have the best chances of surviving and building long-term prosperity.”

This important economic summit is being held from 8 to 11:15 a.m. at the Lynnwood Convention Center, 3711 196th Street SW.

Jim Herbert, founder and CEO of Hebert Research in Bellevue will deliver a keynote speech on our state and nation's future in terms of global competitiveness.

Luke Timmerman, national biotechnology editor of Xconomy, will lead the nine-panel members in a discussion on what they believe to be the world's most important new businesses, and what our government must do to keep our most prized corporations and industries here in Washington.

The panel of founders, chief executive officers, presidents and vice presidents represent a broad spectrum of business sectors including biotechnology, energy, organic foods and clean technology.

Participating will be:

Larry Becker, *Vice President, NESCOgroup, Bellevue*

Samuel Cha, *Senior Vice President, Pacific International Bank, Seattle*

R. Lee Cheatham, *Executive Director, Washington Technology Center, Seattle*

Eric Dobmeier, *Chief Budget Officer, Seattle Genetics, Inc. Bothell*

Brent Frei, *Executive Chairman, Co-Founder, Smartsheet.com, Bellevue*

John Kaestle, *President, CEO, HaloSource, Bothell*

Byron B. McCann, *Managing Partner, Ascent Partners Group, Seattle*

Dave Markle, *Senior Vice President, Sea2O Inc., Bellevue*

Carolyn Sherwood, *Founder, Solar Pie, Seattle*

The audience will have their turn to add comments and feedback following the panel discussion.

“Our state’s future economic prosperity rests on our ability to provide a fit environment for the growth of long-term, sustainable jobs and industry,” Reardon said. “This second summit of our 2009 series, focuses much needed attention on growing and retaining the innovative businesses we will need to sustain our economy during the next 100 years and beyond.”

To RSVP, contact Wendy Becker at 425-388-3186 or wendy.becker@snoco.org.

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