

## **Media Advisory – May 14, 2008**

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### **Reardon releases report on county government inclusion**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon released his 2008 Inclusion Report Wednesday, outlining department goals and achievements during the past year.

In 2007, Reardon instructed county directors to identify clear objectives for increasing the inclusiveness and diversity of their departments. This report, the first report of its kind for Snohomish County, is a culmination of those efforts.

“Never before have so many people with such a rich combination of cultural, racial, national and linguistic heritages called Snohomish County home,” Reardon said. “Increasing the diversity of Snohomish County government is a high priority, and this report highlights some of the great work being done by our departments.”

The report was presented to the Snohomish County Diversity Council, an advisory body to the County Executive’s Office on how best to achieve the county’s diversity goals, at its monthly meeting.

Some efforts to increase diversity within county government include expanded job advertisement outreach to non-traditional news publications such as “Colors NW,” the Washington State Diversity Network, local tribal employment venues, online networks such as Diversity Web and monster.com and colleges nationwide, as well as distributing certain publications in foreign languages and providing vocational training for persons with disabilities.

“I am proud of the accomplishments made so far,” Reardon said. “The County Council’s recent approval of a new inclusion manager will further focus our actions to ensure everyone in Snohomish County has fair access to all services and that they have an equal opportunity to contribute to the county’s services as employees.”

According to the Pew Research Center, by 2050 the U.S. population will be 53 percent Hispanic, black or Asian compared to 47 percent white and non-Hispanic. The percentage of older, non-work-age adults is expected to increase to 42 percent of the population compared to 37 percent as of 2005, creating an increased need for qualified workers.

As of January 2008, Snohomish County’s population is 6.5 percent Hispanic, 2.3 percent black, 7.9 percent Asian, 1.4 percent American Indian and Alaska Native, less than one percent Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander and 79.2 percent white, non-Hispanic according to data from the United States Census Bureau.

A copy of the report can be found at:

[http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/documents/Departments/Executive/News/2008InclusionReport\\_FINAL\\_0513.08.pdf](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/documents/Departments/Executive/News/2008InclusionReport_FINAL_0513.08.pdf)

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