

*For immediate release – Wednesday, January 28, 2004*

## Snohomish County Executive names Citizens Cabinet

--

*Reardon calls on Biotech executive and Washington State University regent to chair group chosen to craft business plan, assist with budget*

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon today introduced his Citizens Cabinet, a 14-member group whose task is to craft a new county business plan.

The Cabinet, whose co-chairs were announced this morning during Reardon's speech before the Snohomish County Council, is drawn from a wide spectrum of the county's manufacturing, agricultural, small business, educational, legal and bio-technology sectors. Members were chosen for their breadth of experience and know-how in their given fields. Both Republicans and Democrats agreed to serve with the group, giving the Cabinet a bi-partisan make-up.

"The caliber of people who answered my call to serve on the Citizens Cabinet is truly gratifying," said Reardon, who made economic development a central theme during his successful campaign for County Executive in 2003.

Reardon outlined his expectations for the Citizens Cabinet in his address.

"This Cabinet will bring executive level, real-world experience to help us identify the assets and liabilities of doing business in Snohomish County," Reardon said. "We will identify the comparative advantage of Snohomish County in a regional market-place. We will examine our county's regulatory process, our infrastructure capacity, the availability of human capital and our tax structure.

"But, most important, the cabinet will identify clear objectives to get this county on track both in the short term and the long run. And, unlike most plans that collect more dust mites than fingerprints, after the cabinet releases its findings and recommendations, they will meet quarterly to measure the county's progress towards meeting these goals.

Reardon named two people to co-chair the Citizens Cabinet: **Mike Martino**, president and Chief Executive Officer of Bothell-based Sonus Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and **Connie Niva**, a Washington State University regent who has also served on the Washington State Transportation Commission and the Everett City Council.

In addition to Martino and Niva, Citizen's Cabinet members include:

- **Cliff Bailey**, a former dairyman and ex-State Senator and Snohomish County Council member from Snohomish;
- **Gigi Burke**, co-owner and Vice President of Crown Distributing Co., in Arlington;
- **Charlie Earl**, President of Everett Community College and former general manager of the Snohomish County PUD;
- **Steve McCary**, Chief Executive Officer of Stevens Healthcare in Edmonds;
- **Carol Nelson**, Chief Executive Officer of Cascade Bank in Everett;
- **Lynn Nixon**, worldwide contributions manager for Agilent Technologies and a board member of the Washington Council on International Trade;
- **Jack Oharah**, President of Edmonds Community College;
- **Dale Reiner**, President of the Snohomish County Farm Bureau;
- **James Shipman**, a partner in Bell & Ingram, an Everett law firm;
- **Greg Tisdale**, owner of Tiz's Door Sales and a member of the Association of Washington Business board;
- **Carol Whitehead**, superintendent of the Everett School District; and,
- **Mark Wolken**, an Everett-based consultant with experience on a variety of local government boards and civic organizations

One position remains open on the Citizens Cabinet. A replacement for Brent Stewart, the highly regarded executive who recently left his position at United Way Snohomish County to take a position in Portland, Ore., will be chosen at a later time. Reardon said he regretted not being able to work with Stewart on the Citizens Cabinet, but congratulated him on his new position.

Niva said she volunteered to co-chair the Citizens Cabinet after Reardon outlined his vision for citizen involvement in creating a County business plan. She said during her years of service on groups as varied as the Everett City Council and the Washington State Transportation Commission, she understands how a region's regulatory climate can impact the ability to create jobs.

"Aaron Reardon committed during his campaign to write a business plan for Snohomish County," Niva said. "Our group, our Citizens Cabinet, has the opportunity to guide in the development of this plan, which will shape the direction of his administration. There are people with many talents on this Cabinet and I am looking forward to working with them toward a common goal."

###

**For additional information, please contact:**

Mark Funk  
 Executive Management Analyst  
 (425) 388-3623  
 mark.funk@co.snohomish.wa.us