

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Snohomish County Dream Team Collaborating to Attract and Retain Regional Business**

### **Two CEO's Working Hand-In-Hand to Withstand The Nation's Tough Economy**

Everett, WA – April marked the biggest jump in the U.S. unemployment rate in 22 years (5% - 5.5%), but with Snohomish County's 3.6% unemployment rate considerably under the U.S. rate and the state's average of 4.7%, the communities are seeing the effect of their local Economic Development Council (EDC) and Workforce Development Council (WDC). CEOs Deborah Knutson, EDC, and Sue Ambler, WDC, have joined forces over the last year to continue to build jobs and create a more educated and well prepared workforce.

Among the recent successes of EDC and WDC was their developmental work for Boeing supplier, Korry Electronics. Debating relocation from Seattle to Snohomish County, the development councils teamed up with Community Transit, Paine Field, Puget Sound Energy, Snohomish County Government and Snohomish County PUD to address Korry's concerns regarding transportation, housing, education, and worker training.

"Within a day of talking to the EDC, Matt (Matt Smith, VP of the EDC) had us up there looking at six sites. We had a lease signed in forty-three days," commented Dave Rhoden of Korry Electronics. After careful consideration, Korry will be moving its company's 600 employees to Snohomish County's Paine Field from its prior South Lake Union Facility. "In my opinion, this couldn't have happened if we didn't pick up the phone and call the EDC. Everett had completely fallen off of our radar," adds Rhoden.

With Boeing's Current Market Outlook calling for a \$2.8 trillion demand for new aircraft over the next twenty years, the amount of aerospace jobs should increase dramatically in Snohomish County. A staggering 4,700 aerospace jobs were added in just one year (2007) in addition to the 16,600 other jobs added in the county. The annual job growth rate has climbed in the county to 8.7%, strongly surpassing the 2.7% state average.

With a strong Boeing market outlook and many new and existing projects, the EDC and WDC of Snohomish County continue building a globally competitive workforce and encourage industries to innovate in Snohomish County.

