

**Northwest Workforce Council
For Immediate Release**

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Media Contact: Gary Smith, (360) 676-3241, gsmith@nwisd.bellingham.wa.us

NORTHWEST WORKFORCE COUNCIL ANNOUNCES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Bellingham: Northwest Workforce Council (Council) announced the addition of new members to its board today. The Council's business member majority works in close association with local elected officials providing oversight of the workforce development system in Island, Skagit, Whatcom and San Juan Counties. The Council sets strategic direction and goals for the system and monitors the performance of a wide array of employment and training programs operating within the region. The Council and its partner organizations work strategically with economic development entities to ensure the vitality of the region's labor force and economy. Sector and geographic distribution of the Council's membership is determined by the federal Workforce Investment Act (1998).

Nancy Steiger, Chief Executive Officer/Chief Mission Officer, PeaceHealth Whatcom Region

Nancy Steiger has led PeaceHealth's operations in northwestern Washington since 2007. Previously she spent five years as CEO of San Mateo Medical Center following service as COO at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital/St. Joseph Health System, both in northern California. She received her master's degree in nursing at the University of California, San Francisco. Nancy is the author of *Self-Care Nursing: Theory and Practice*.

Dr. Greg Baker, Superintendent, Bellingham Schools District

Dr. Baker comes to Bellingham Public Schools from Portland, Oregon where he served as a deputy superintendent. He has also served as an intern and special assistant to the superintendent of Boston Public Schools and as an administrator for Spokane Public Schools. He began his career in Alaska as a teacher and assistant coach. Dr. Baker received his doctorate from Harvard University; a master's degree in administration, planning and social policy from Harvard University; and a master's degree in secondary education from Western Washington University. He earned his bachelor's degree with distinction from Gonzaga University.

Dr. Hart Hodges, Vice President, Waycross Management Investment

Dr. Hodges is responsible for investment research and statistical analysis at Waycross. He is also an Associate Professor of Economics at Western Washington University, where he is Director of the Center for Economic and Business Research. Research interests include health economics, local economic development, and natural resource and environmental economics. Dr. Hodges received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Washington, his Masters in Environmental Management from Duke University, and his BA from Williams College. He is past president of the Association of University Business and Economic Research and a member of the National Association of Business Economists.

Gregg Davidson, Chief Executive Officer, Skagit Valley Hospital

With 30 years of experience, Gregg Davidson serves as CEO of Skagit Regional Health which includes Skagit Valley Hospital and Skagit Regional Clinics. Gregg holds a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Washington and a Master's of Science in Health Care Administration from Trinity University in San Antonio. He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and a board certified health care executive. He currently serves as the ACHE Regent representing the state of Washington, as delegate to the American Hospital Association Regional Policy Board and a board member on the Washington State Hospital Association.

Tom Rizzo, Refinery Manager, Shell Puget Sound Refinery

Tom was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. In 1981 he earned both a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and an M.B.A. in Finance from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Tom started with Shell in 1981 as a Process Engineer at the refinery in Wood River, Illinois and has held several positions within Shell during his 30 years with the company.

Two new members of the regional elected officials' Consortium Committee working with the Council were also welcomed this year.

Jamie Stephens, Council member, San Juan County

While his term began in January 2011, Jamie has been active in the San Juan Island communities since arriving 14 years ago. After a career as business manager at Mancini & Groesbeck in Salt Lake City and Seattle, Jamie and his family moved to Lopez Island, where they owned and managed the Edenwild Inn - which earned mention in Northwest Best Places. From 1999 to the present he has managed residential and commercial real estate on Lopez Island. He received a degree in American Studies and Communications from the University of Notre Dame in 1978. He also attended executive finance classes at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Jack Louws, County Executive, Whatcom County

Jack Louws began his term as Executive in January 2012. He previously served four years on the Lynden City Council and eight years as Lynden's mayor. Louws has chaired the Whatcom Council of Governments, Small Cities Caucus, and Growth Management Advisory Board and served on boards of the Whatcom Transportation Authority, Economic Development Investment Council and Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. Jack is the owner of Louws Truss and served as its CEO from 1982 to 2010.

For more on the Council and its work visit: www.nwboard.org.

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