

COLUMBIA
COUNTY
ECONOMIC
TEAM

MEDIA RELEASE

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**NEW GROUP TO HELP SPUR JOB AND BUSINESS GROWTH
IN COLUMBIA COUNTY**

Bright spots can be hard to find in today's economy. Fortunately, the Columbia County Economic Team is now actively working to fix that through a new local partnership for economic development.

The organization officially launched on October 1 when its board-of-directors met for the first time. It was the beginning of what is likely to be a long-term initiative geared towards making Columbia County more productive and competitive for community-sustaining businesses.

In turn, the organization hopes to its efforts will yield more employment opportunities, a larger tax base, better infrastructure, and more vital communities, overall.

David Stocker, executive director for the Columbia County Economic Team, explained, "this organization wants to improve the economic well-being and quality-of-life for all communities in Columbia County." He added, "We know that none of us can do it alone, which is why elected officials and many business leaders throughout the county have embraced a team approach."

In fact, each of Columbia County’s communities—from Clatskanie, to Scappoose, Vernonia, and all those in between—are represented on the organization’s board-of-directors, along with leaders from the Columbia County Board of Commissioners, the Port of St. Helens, the public utility districts, and Portland Community College.

Representatives from a dozen businesses operating in the county also sit on the board, bringing essential private-sector insight on how best to strengthen Columbia County’s business climate.

Tony Hyde, Columbia County Commissioner and a member of the Columbia County Economic Team’s Board of Directors remarked, “I’m excited to see all of Columbia County working together as a team with a common goal of creating jobs and improving our local economy.”

If the organization’s big picture goals are ambitious, its day-to-day work is expected to create tangible results for individual businesses and, by extension, their employees.

The organization is now planning what services it will offer to businesses already located in the county-- to keep them local and support their growth—while also launching a campaign to encourage new businesses to consider the advantages of operating in Columbia County.

With the Columbia County Economic Team now launched, community and business leaders are confident that county residents will begin seeing economic bright spots everywhere.

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If you would like more information about this topic or to schedule an interview with David Stocker please call 503-397-7218 or email david.stocker@columbiacountyoregon.com. The following members of the Columbia County Economic Team's Board of Directors are also available for interviews:

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