



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Thurston County Economic Partners Convene Prosperity Partnership Briefing March 28**

On Monday, March 28, the Port of Olympia, Thurston County Economic Development Council, Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council and the Thurston Regional Planning Council will sponsor a gathering to review the efforts of the Puget Sound regional Prosperity Partnership. The meeting will be held from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. at St. Martin's Worthington Center in Lacey.

The Prosperity Partnership is a coalition developing a regional economic strategy for the central Puget Sound region. Its goal is to design and implement a strategy to create 100,000 new jobs in the region by 2010. Led by the Puget Sound Regional Council, the Partnership has almost 100 partner organizations, including private business, business development organizations, community development organizations, workforce development agencies, education citizen activist groups, labor and elected officials.

The Partnership is focusing its initial efforts on five industry clusters - Life Sciences, Aerospace, Information Technology, Environment & Alternative Energy, and Logistics & International Trade. A working group has been formed in each cluster to assess our region's competitiveness, develop action items to grow jobs in the region and implement the actions. Each group has identified four to five initiatives and is currently working to identify potential organizational homes for each. The strategy is due to be released in early May.

At Monday's meeting, Thurston County economic leaders will hear from Bob Drewel, Puget Sound Regional Council Executive Director, and Bill McSherry, Regional Economic Strategy Advisor, concerning the Prosperity Partnership. While not a voting member of the PSRC, Thurston County is an Associate Member through the Thurston Regional Planning Council and the Port of Olympia. Participants at Monday's meeting will provide input to the Port, EDC, TRPC and PMWDC about how Thurston County might participate in the Partnership effort or convene a county-wide economic vitality summit.

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