



American Society of Civil Engineers

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Columbia Section

Since October 10, 1950

Newsletter

September, 2009

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Columbia Section Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 23rd, 2009

Place: **Shilo Inn, George Washington Way, Richland**

Meal: Buffet (Chef's choice) - \$15 per person
Please pay cash or check to treasurer at meeting

Topic: Port of Benton, Research District

Speaker: Diahann Howard, Director of Economic Development and Government Affairs, Port of Benton

Lunch will start at 11:30, and the presentation will begin at Noon.

RSVP to: Paul Smith, Psmith@mackaysposito.com or 509-374-4248 by September 21st, 2009.

President's Remarks

Dear Members:

It is that time again, summer has flown by and September is here marking the beginning of the 2009/2010 ASCE Columbia Section's regular monthly meetings. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the Columbia Section president for another year. It was probably not well publicized, but in 2008 the Section Officers decided to retain their positions for two year terms. The feeling among the officers was that there was no continuity in the operation of the organization, because just when you go things figured out, it was time to transition to a new position. So again, Dr. Bill Kinsel will be in the past-president position, Paul Smith will continue as Vice President and Chris Ells is our Secretary/Treasurer.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this month's Columbia Section lunch meeting. I look forward to a great year and hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Jay Marlow, P.E.
Columbia Section, President

Presentation:

Port of Benton Research District

The Port of Benton and its economic development partners are deciding how to best develop and market the 1,600-acre Research District in north Richland, Washington. The District's current 85 tenants employ more than 8,000 people and include science / tech / manufacturing, educational institutions, government, restaurants and other services. A Research District Land Use and Marketing Plan has been developed and seeks to identify new opportunities for creating and marketing a stronger Research District in the Tri-Cities.

Specifically, the project was designed to answer questions in three primary areas:

Marketing

- What are the community's goals for the Research District?
- What are the Research District's most marketable and unique strengths?
- How should the Research District leverage the region's assets?
- What are the best target businesses for the Research District?

Product Improvements

- What land-use improvements will make the Research District more attractive to businesses?
- What services will make the Research District more valuable to relocating businesses?

Implementation

- How should the region's governments and organizations collaborate to effectively build and market the Research District?
- What investments will be required to make the Research District successful?
- How should the Research District be organized and managed to best capture future opportunities?

Our goal is clear:

*To bring more jobs and investment to the Tri-Cities
in science and technology industries.*

Speaker:

Diahann Howard

Diahann Howard is the Director of Economic Development and Governmental Affairs for the Port of Benton. In addition to her port responsibilities, she serves as the Executive Director for the Tri Cities Research District, a Washington State Innovation Partnership Zone. Prior to the Port, she was the City of Richland's Economic Development Manager.

She serves on the Washington Economic Development Association board as its secretary, Tri Cities Legislative Council, and the Applied Process Engineering Laboratory (APEL) advisory board, as well as various others. She is a member of the Richland Rotary Club.