A DISRUPTION LIKE NO OTHER: COVID & ITS ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

HART HODGES, Co-Director, Center for Economic & Business Research, WWU

Hart Hodges, PhD joined the faculty at Western Washington University in the Fall of 2000 and serves as co-director of the Center for Economic and Business Research. His research interests include natural resource and environmental economics, health economics, and applied business economics. He received his Ph.D. in Economics in 1994 from the University of Washington. While at the University of Washington, Hart received awards for both undergraduate and graduate teaching instruction. He taught economics from 1993-1995 at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA, and then served as the natural resource damage assessment economist for the U.S. Department of the Interior. Hart is currently managing several research projects and public service efforts with an emphasis on economic development.

JAMES McCAFFERTY, Co-Director, Center for Economic & Business Research, WWU

James McCafferty serves as co-director for Western Washington University’s Center for Economic and Business Research. He seeks to broaden the connections between the university, the College of Business and Economics, and the community through student internships, classroom-based projects, and consultative projects. James has an MBA from Western Washington University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism/Public Relations from University of Oregon. Working within the College of Business and Economics and across campus James works with students, faculty and staff to bring their skills, resources and abilities to the assistance of businesses, governments and nonprofits. Through these projects, WWU is able to engage in activities that deliver both educational and experiential benefits to all those involved.

COVID IN KITSAP: HEALTH UPDATE & INFORMATION

KEITH GRELLNER, Administrator, Kitsap Public Health

Administrator of the Kitsap Public Health District since 2016, Keith holds shared responsibility for Kitsap County’s public health response to the COVID-19 health crisis, while overseeing an organization of over 100 employees among the District’s Environmental Health, Community Health, and Administrative Services divisions. Keith’s career at Kitsap Public Health spans more than 30-years and includes past direct management of Kitsap Public Health’s water quality, solid waste, on-site septic, and drinking water programs. In addition to his role at the District, Keith is current chair of the Washington State Board of Health, which provides leadership and advances public health practices across Washington via policy analysis, rule development, partnership promotion, and public engagement, and president-elect of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO).
**MONICA BLACKWOOD**, 
KEDA Immediate Past Chair and CEO, West Sound Workforce

Monica Blackwood became President, CEO and owner of West Sound Workforce in 2018. In her work in staffing, recruiting and HR, Monica finds fulfillment in seeing people use their skills and talents to become successful in their professional lives. Her belief: Ultimately, a community’s workforce is what allows all in it to thrive. Monica serves on several boards and organizations as a volunteer on causes that align with economic development, education, workforce training/HR, and diversity. This includes her work as Immediate Past Chair at KEDA, her membership in the Olympic Workforce Council and board role at the Olympic College Foundation. Monica is a third-generation University of Washington Husky, and also holds her MBA in Strategic Leadership from Amberton University. When she’s not helping people and companies find the right professional fit, she enjoys meaningful conversations, building sandcastles, and when possible, traveling the world with family.

**LINDA ESPINOSA**, 
Co-Founder and Lead Coach, Cuvee Coaching (Panel Moderator)

Linda Espinosa is a Gallup-certified strengths coach whose work empowers entrepreneurs and business owners to create purpose-driven companies that can make a difference in their communities. A dual Mexican-Canadian citizen, Linda has over 15 years of experience in different industries and international markets. In 2011, After noticing the inequality of available services for small and medium businesses while living in the San Francisco Bay area, she was inspired to seek a new challenge and became a mentor for small companies trying to take their business to the next level. She learned about CliftonStrengths, and saw first-hand the impact strengths have in people’s lives and their communities which drove her to subsequently become a certified strengths coach herself, and start her own firm, Cuvee Coaching. She relocated to Bainbridge Island in 2019 and is currently expanding Cuvee’s services to include Diversity, Equity and Inclusion consulting services.

**BRENDA FANTROY-JOHNSON**, 
AT&T Chief Security Office, Security Risk Management

A technologist, public servant and author, Brenda Fantroy-Johnson brings a wealth of experience to her cross-industry work. As an information security professional, Brenda has worked in the highest levels of cloud computing, telecommunications and technology for decades, including for the State of Michigan, American Electric and Power, Nordstrom and for the last 15 years, AT&T. Brenda is also the newest member of the Bainbridge Island City Council, selected to represent the North Ward as of December 2020. She is also an author of the memoir Imagine Me, which tells the story of a young black girl’s journey growing up in the early 60’s in Detroit, and is ultimately a story of challenges, hope and dreams fulfilled. A Certified Information Security Professional (among other technology designations), Fantroy-Johnson holds a BAS in Computer and Information Systems from Davenport University, an MBA from Spring Arbor University, and an MS in Information Security and Assurance from Western Governors University.

**ALANNA IMBACH**, 
CEO and Founder, Vibe Coworks

A fierce champion of innovation, entrepreneurship and meaningful social impact, Alanna Imbach is the founder and CEO of Vibe Coworks, the West Sound region’s largest shared workspace and coworking community. Built in pre-COVID times with a vision to help Kitsap’s modern professionals commute less, connect more and escape from lonely home offices, the mission has never been more important or relevant than now. Prior to packing up her then-two-year-old twin girls and moving 2,800 mile cross country to launch Vibe Coworks flagship location in Poulsbo, Alanna spent 15 years living and working around the globe in the international development sector, dedicated to cross-sector collaboration on migration and refugee policy, food aid, and access to clean water, toilets and menstrual hygiene. Alanna lives in Silverdale with her husband Marcel and twin daughters, where Swiss is the running language and hallway headstand competitions have come to be the ultimate sign of pandemic times.
LYNETTE LADENBURG, CEO, Martha & Mary

As CEO of Martha and Mary, Lynette Ladenburg oversees an organization that has been caring for children, seniors and families in Greater Kitsap for 130-years, and which is also one of the 20 largest employers in Kitsap. Martha and Mary offers rehab, home care, care management, long term care for seniors as well as early learning programs and child care for children. Prior to taking the helm of Martha and Mary in 2016, Ladenburg has previously served as Chief Strategic and Financial Officer of LeadingAge, and Chief Financial and Operations Officer for Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community. A Licensed Nursing Home Administrator, Ladenburg also holds a BA from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma and an MBA in Healthcare Management from Marylhurst University in Portland.

KEYNOTE: TALENT ATTRACTION IN THE AGE OF REMOTE WORK

JOHN KARRAS, VP Business Development

John has devoted his career to the bold idea that every community has the potential to become a more vibrant place. As VP of Business Development at TIP, John channels his energies to empower economic development professionals and civic leaders with the knowledge and tools needed to make their communities more vibrant. John’s economic development work has taken him to 30 US states, as well as Mexico and Canada. In addition to his consulting portfolio, John has built a reputation as a leading thinker on urban revitalization trends and their impact on economic development. He founded urbanSCALE.com in 2013, which introduced the first comprehensive measure of how urban a city is on a scale of 1 to 10. Opinion pieces and research from urbanSCALE have been featured in Planetizen, Outside Magazine’s annual “Best Places to Live” feature, and dozens of local media outlets around the US. John lives in Austin, Texas with his wife and son, where he lives out his obsession of finding and tasting the world’s best tacos and barbeque.

UPDATES FROM DC & AROUND THE DISTRICT

DEREK KILMER, Representative, Washington’s 6th Congressional District

Born and raised in Port Angeles, Derek Kilmer has served as the United States Representative of Washington’s 6th Congressional District since 2008, where he today serves on the House Appropriations Committee, the Interior and Environment Subcommittee, Defense Subcommittee, and Energy and Water Development Subcommittee. Prior to his congressional tenure, Derek served in both the Washington House and Senate, where his work included principal authorship of Washington’s capital budget, writing a bipartisan infrastructure package, and leading a bipartisan effort that led the Senate to balance the budget and reduce state debt. A strong supporter of Naval Base Kitsap and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Derek’s awards include the U.S. Navy’s Distinguished Public Service Award, the highest honor a civilian not employed by the Navy can receive from the Secretary of the Navy; he has also been named Hero of Main Street by the National Retail Federation. Derek holds a BA from Princeton University’s School of Public and International Affairs, an MA and Ph.D from Oxford University.
TEAM KEDA

NATHAN EVANS, KEDA Board Chair and Principal Software Architect, Microsoft

Nathan Evans is a Principal Software Architect leading a visual applications development team within Microsoft Research Special Projects. As the current Board Chair of KEDA, for the last year Nathan has led the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force for Kitsap’s economic development organization, evaluating ways KEDA can better engage the entire Kitsap community in the conversation about economic prosperity. An alumnus of both Olympic College and Western Washington University, Nathan has also performed extensive research on the restoration and management of coastal nearshore ecosystems with a combination of field studies and remote sensing.

JOE MORRISON, KEDA Executive Director

Joe Morrison joined the Kitsap Economic Development Alliance as Executive Director (KEDA) in late 2020. Prior, he built and ran the Municipality of Anchorage’s $12.7 million 49th State Angel Fund, an economic development initiative investing in Alaska startups through local fund managers and working to build the state’s entrepreneurial infrastructure. At KEDA, Joe focuses on offering the right blend of programs, partnerships and technical assistance to all of Kitsap in response to the COVID economic crisis. Joe holds a BA in English from Vassar College, an International MBA from Madrid’s IE Business School, and has lived in Port Orchard since 2017.

ERIN LEEDHAM, KEDA Board Vice Chair and General Manager, Kitsap Mall

General Manager of the Kitsap Mall since 2012, Erin Leedham has overseen millions of dollars of reinvestment and renovation in Kitsap’s most prominent retail space, as well as rebooted content and programming to grow shoppers to the mall, including during COVID. Erin is an engaged leader in the Kitsap community, serving as a board member of the Kitsap Public Facilities District, representing the South County, and as an active Silverdale Rotarian who has worked in the areas of increasing literacy and mitigating poverty’s damaging effects. Erin’s career has spanned roles in real estate investment and management across both California and Washington. She holds a BS in Nutrition from the University of Maine.

SHAWN GILFEDDER, KEDA Board and CEO, Kitsap Credit Union

Shawn Gilfedder joined Kitsap Credit Union (KCU) in late 2018 as its President and CEO, following his role as President and CEO of McGraw-Hill Federal Credit Union in New York City /New Jersey. Shawn brought to KCU his extensive experience with financial institutions, capital markets, and commercial banking. His work at Kitsap Credit Union is fueled by his passion to serve the 116,000 members of his credit union and surrounding community. Shawn’s progressive leadership promotes a sense of belonging and inclusion. His mission is to make financial education accessible to the Kitsap community thereby improving its financial health and prosperity. He holds a BS in Finance from William Paterson University and an MBA from Farleigh-Dickinson University. He resides in Kitsap County with his wife and two daughters. When not at the helm of KCU he loves sharing his passion for the water, fishing with friends, riding the trails and exploring the outdoors with his golden retriever.