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Local nonprofit hosts national workforce leader, elects new officers, recognizes members and staff

SEATTLE—Ron Painter, CEO of the National Association of Workforce Boards (www.nawb.org), was the keynote speaker for today's annual meeting of the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County.

“With \$300 million less in our workforce system than six years ago and at the same time a 250% increase in people needing employment help, we must work together with other systems, be more efficient and innovate,” said Painter in his address. “The WDC here in Seattle is one of those places we look to for innovation.”

Painter's talk was the highlight of the WDC board meeting as the 40-member, private-sector-led board celebrated the accomplishments of the past year. These included:

- 1,200 individuals placed in jobs
- 1,000 young people employed in internships through stimulus funding
- 6,000 jobseekers served each month at WorkSource centers
- \$11.5 million in new grants brought into the local community for job training.

The board also elected new officers to two-year terms:

- Chair: **Terry Pickering**, Senior Vice President & Industry Specialist Manager at Viking Bank.
- Vice Chair: **Tom Peterson**, Vice President/General Manager of Hoffman Construction.
- Secretary/Treasurer: **John Doocy**, representing the private sector.

In other business, the board recognized several longtime members for their outstanding service in the past year: **Walt Yeager**, a business member from BRD Corp.; **Dr. Michael Bisesi** of Seattle University; and **Rich Berkowitz** of the Transportation Institute, the outgoing chair of the WDC. All have contributed greatly to the organization throughout their years on the WDC board.

Peter Cavanaugh of the WDC staff was honored with the first annual Kris Stadelman Leadership Award for his outstanding work in the past year, including leading the 2009 summer jobs program that put 900 youth to work.

“Our annual meeting is the perfect time to reaffirm our mission: to support a strong economy and the ability of each person to achieve self-sufficiency,” said CEO Marléna Sessions. “The WDC is fortunate to have such an engaged and dedicated board as well as a staff of great talent and commitment. In the coming program year starting July 1, together we'll make an even greater impact in our community.”

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The **Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County** (www.seakingwdc.org) is a nonprofit workforce “think tank” and grant-making organization that oversees employment-related programs for youth, the adult workforce and employers in King County, with the goal of a strong economy and self-sufficiency for every resident.