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Tacoma Technology Consortium

Tacoma Venture Provides Capital Exposure

Recent shakeouts in the technology industry and the NASDAQ have been enough to give anyone jitters. For Tacoma's technology community, help is on the way!

April 25 is the date for the next edition of *Tacoma Venture*, the local venue that marries the resources of the Tacoma Technology Consortium, the Northwest Venture Group, and the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber. This luncheon, which runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the La Quinta Inn, will seek to inform and encourage entrepreneurs and investors through two main thrusts:

- An expanded series of Five Minute Forums will present companies that are continuing to grow despite the financial slowdown;
- A panel discussion on "How to Survive Tight Times" offers tested advice from a seasoned group of entrepreneurs, moderated by Janis Machala of Paladin Partners, a Kirkland consulting firm.

Registration for this quarterly event, which costs $30 per person, is available through the Chamber at (253) 627-2175 or cindy.almogela@tacomachamber.org, or through the Northwest Venture Group at (425) 746-1973 or info@nwvg.org.

Applications for the Five Minute Forums are available through the end of next week. To apply, contact Forum Chair Christopher Algeo at (253) 305-7793 or via e-mail at christopher_w_algeo@keybank.com.

New Tech Job Growth

Recently released figures show that Pierce County's high technology employment growth exceeded that of all other counties excepting King in the period 1995-99. The numbers, compiled by the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC), also

PIERCE COUNTY ECONOMIC FORECAST POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

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show that last year more people were employed in high technology occupations (110,000) than with the Boeing Company (90,000).

Because employment data lags reality by a year, these figures do not reflect the impacts of recent lay-offs in the technology industry. Read the PSRC's full report at www.psrc.org/datapubs/pubs/trends/e10trend.pdf.

Pacific Lutheran University Promotes Tacoma Tech eXcitement

The new economy has buoyed the revitalization of Tacoma with a flurry of new technology firms, and many of this rebirth's leaders got some or all of their college training from Pacific Lutheran University (PLU). This Saturday, alumni will gather to celebrate their success.

Panel discussions and a keynote luncheon presentation will mark Saturday's high profile event feting ePLU, the university's new program headed by Dr. Chung-Shing Lee. Among the alums that will be featured during PLU's event are:

- Todd Ostrander, President & CEO of EssentialMarkets;
- Lisa Ottoson, President of TecHatch
- Brandon Fix, Founder of DonationDepot
- Mike Moodenbaugh, CEO of iWebHatch.com

For details of the event, including registration, please visit the following site: http://www.eplu.org/ecomplu/event.cfm?EID=2.

For more about ePLU, please travel the web to http://www.eplu.org/.

Will Moore's Law Imperil the Energy-Hungry New Economy?

The continuing energy crisis brings challenges for Pierce County businesses across the industry spectrum, but it presents special obstacles to energy-intensive "new economy" businesses. If a little-known calculation called Moore's Law holds true, future generations of microprocessors will demand vastly more power to fuel increased computing capabilities. This growing demand will further stretch the West Coast's diminishing energy budget.

Moore's Law, coined by Intel co-founder Gordon Moore, describes a continuing trend in microchip manufacturing wherein each new chip is about 14 percent bigger than its predecessor and contains roughly twice as much capacity. New chips are released every 18-24 months. Following this trend, computing power has risen exponentially so that in only 26 years the number of transistors on a chip has increased more than 3,200 times.

Increased computing efficiencies come with a voracious appetite for electricity. Computers now consume about 13 percent of the nation's power, according to EPRI Corp., a Palo Alto research and development group that studies the utility industry. The biggest power users warehouse the immense computer servers and peripheral equipment needed to navigate networks and handle Internet traffic. These so-called "server farms" consume 10 to 12 times more power than the traditional office building filled with workers.

Experts in microchip architecture expect the trend expressed by Moore's Law to continue. Ten years from now, microprocessors will run at 10GHz to 30GHz and be capable of processing 1 trillion operations per second--about the same number of calculations as the world's fastest supercomputer can perform now, according to a recent speech by Intel Corporation Chief Technology Officer Pat Gelsinger.

Engineers working to develop the architecture of the next generation of microchips, which should arrive in 2003 or 2004, face major challenges in developing effective means for dissipating heat and managing energy consumption.

A stellar luncheon panel will discuss the prognosis for the future of this region's technology sector during the daylong South Sound Technology 2001 (SST 2001) conference in Tacoma on May 30. Terry McManus, an Intel Fellow and Director of Environmental Health and Safety Technologies, and Steve Hickock, Chief Operating Officer for the Bonneville Power Administration, will comprise a panel moderated by Congressman Norm Dicks. The panel will address the continuing demands that Moore's Law will place on West Coast power resources.

The Chamber and its affiliate, the Tacoma Technology Consortium, are among the cosponsors for SST2001. Registration is available online at http://www.sst2001.com/.