

## Sharon Crosby

**From:** Prosser Economic Development Association [economicdevelopment@prosser.org]

**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2006 11:20 AM

**To:** economicdevelopment@prosser.org

**Subject:** Prosser E D A News

# Progress In Motion

- Edition III 2006

## In This Issue

Are You A "Foodie?"  
AG - Growth Is More Than Crop  
Yields in WA State  
Salute! The Walter Clore Wine &  
Culinary Center Breaks Ground  
CTED Director Juli Wilkerson  
Speaks at Annual Meeting  
Our Volunteers Are Gems!  
Prosser Memorial Hospital  
Offers Academic Assistance

## Sign Up

SIGN-UP!

## Funding Partners

Port of Benton  
City of Prosser  
Benton County

## Are You A "Foodie?"



Would you someday like to own your own food industry related business? An introductory workshop offered by the Food Innovation Center of Oregon State University

might just be the opportunity for you. The "NW FoodBiz Startup" workshop is scheduled to be held at the Food Innovation Center in Portland, OR on May 11, 2006 beginning at 1:00p.m. until 4:30p.m. This short course is designed to provide guidance in determining whether to start a food business as well as assist in providing direction and guidance. To register or learn more visit the FIC site by clicking on the logo.

## AG - Growth Is More Than Crop Yields in WA State



**Agriculture represents \$28 billion in business**  
**Employs 173,000 workers statewide**  
**WA State is the top US producer in 11 commodities**  
**WA State has closest US port to Asian markets**  
**Holds #1 position for several years in exports per capita**

Agriculture is not just a traditional industry and is far from stagnant. Businesses are using technology and innovation to open doors to new markets. Innovations range from improving crop quality and yields, utilizing crops for renewable and alternative energy sources, to transforming waste into new materials and revenue streams.

**YVCC AG AA Degree** Yakima Valley Community College offers a transfer option for students intending to complete Bachelor of Science programs in the College of Agriculture at WSU or other

### Salute! The Walter Clore Wine & Culinary Center Breaks Ground



The long awaited groundbreaking for the Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center took place on March 28, 2006. State and local dignitaries, members of the Clore family, board members, and a long list of guests were on hand to witness the event. The center will bring together wine and culinary arts as well as provide visitors with opportunities to study and enjoy the partnership between wine and food. There will also be a focus on viticulture, enology and culinary arts of Washington State. The Center is dedicated to Dr. Walter Clore, known as "The Father of the Washington State Wine Industry".

### CTED Director Juli Wilkerson Speaks at Annual Meeting



Juli Wilkerson, Director of the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development will be the featured speaker at Prosser EDA's Annual Meeting. Ms. Wilkerson visited Prosser last September as a guest and round table participant at the Prosser EDA sponsored Awareness Tour. We are pleased that she has consented to be here again as our featured speaker. CTED plays an integral role in assisting communities with infrastructure development, community revitalization and promotion and her interest in Prosser is greatly appreciated.

The annual meeting is planned for 5:00 p.m. Monday, June 26, 2006 at the Princess Theater Banquet Room. Invitations to the event will be mailed out at the end of May. The wine & hors d'oeuvres reception is a way to say thank you to our partners, contributors and business associates for their support, as well as address our accomplishments and future goals.

[More about CTED . . .](#)

### Our Volunteers Are Gems!



Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa Ellis has organized an event to recognize community volunteers. The "Dessert Reception" is scheduled for Thursday, April 27th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Princess Theater Banquet Room. This is an opportunity for local organizations, civic groups and volunteer committees to honor their hardworking members. Guest speakers are Prosser Mayor, Linda Lusk and Regional AmeriCorp Director, Stephen Harrell. If you haven't been contacted and would like to participate or attend please contact Melissa at 509 786-3600.

**Amethyst**-Volunteers are like amethysts because they are vivid and sincere. They create stability, calmness and tranquility. **Diamond**-Volunteers are like diamonds because they are brilliant, courageous and tough. Volunteers are highly prized and loved. **Emerald**-Volunteers are like emeralds because they are intense and soothing. They reflect growth, remove weariness and soothe the soul-they are highly valued. **Ruby**-Volunteers are like rubies because they are glowing and intense. They are wise, creative and peaceful. **Sapphire**-Volunteers are like sapphires because they are clear and precious. They are brilliant, precise, and bring blessings. **Above all,**

our volunteers are valuable, beautiful, tough, priceless and truly treasured.

### Prosser Memorial Hospital Offers Academic Assistance

Today our nation faces a critical shortage of health care professionals. The latest predictions from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics show more than one million new and replacement nurses will be needed by the year 2012. In addition to a nursing shortage there is a desperate need for therapists and pharmacists. Health care providers are forced to fill these positions with temporary staff. Though competent, temporary staff proves expensive, is unfamiliar with the facility and distracts from the continuity of care. The recruitment of permanent employees in a rural setting is even more difficult. In 2002, the PMH Board of Commissioners established the Academic Assistance Program to rectify this problem.

The Academic Assistance Program provides tuition and books for 12 students, chosen from applicants who reside within the District. Many of the current students are employees of the District, furthering their education. The program is intended to encourage students to work at PMH after they graduate. If they work at the Hospital after graduation their loan is written off. They may choose to work elsewhere, in which case they are required to repay the loan at market rates. This program offers community members the opportunity to pursue a career that might not be available to them, encourages professional development, fills hard to recruit positions and provides a cost effective alternative to the costs of temporary labor. This progressive program is positive not just for the Hospital and patients, but the community as well. For more information contact Prosser Memorial Hospital at 509 786-2222.

Prosser Memorial Hospital

### Prosser Economic Development Association

email: [economicdevelopment@prosser.org](mailto:economicdevelopment@prosser.org)

Phone: 509 786-3600

web: <http://www.prosser.org>