County stands ready for aerospace opportunities

On Wednesday, The Boeing Company announced that it will bring the KC-46 Tanker program to the Puget Sound. While this will add only 100 jobs to the region, the decision underscores the fact that the Puget Sound is one of the most competitive locations in the country for aerospace manufacturing.

Snohomish County plays a leading role in this state’s aerospace industry by providing the best-trained women and men for the jobs that keep Boeing and other regional aerospace companies successful. We're also a strategic location for current and future work.

The goal for Snohomish County is to continue producing world-class airplanes, whether for commercial or defense purposes. We can do that by providing new training opportunities for aerospace workers at facilities such as our Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center, located at Paine Field Airport.

Snohomish County and its community partners stand ready to expand our aerospace presence. I look forward to many more positive announcements in the future.

Sincerely,

Reardon sworn in for third term, pledges continued fiscal responsibility

*County stands ready for aerospace opportunities
*Reardon sworn in for third term, pledges continued fiscal responsibility
*Winners to be honored at MLK event, Jan. 12

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Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon was sworn into office for a third term on Saturday, Dec. 31. Reardon was re-elected in November with nearly 56 percent of the vote.

The Honorable Timothy Ryan administered the oath of office to Reardon. Judge Ryan is a former college professor of Reardon's and administered the oath of office to Reardon in 2004 for his first term.

“Snohomish County is the only county government in the region able to deliver the services our citizens expect – all with a balanced budget, a surplus and without raising general taxes. While others sat paralyzed by the Great Recession and its affects, we boldly stepped forward making the right decisions for our citizens when it has mattered most,” Reardon said. “Today, our government is financially stable, our taxpayers pay less for the services they receive than any others in the region and our economic environment is the most competitive in the state. We invest in our people, their potential and the great American promise they pursue.”

When Reardon was first elected eight years ago, his first goal was to reinvent Snohomish County government by making it smaller and more efficient. This, along with strong fiscal discipline, has allowed Snohomish County to expand economically, create new jobs and grow wages.

“We have worked with our community to do more than simply weather the greatest economic storm in more than 80 years. Together, we have
refocused Snohomish County from the bureaucratic, slow-moving post-WWII industrial model of big government to one that is leaner, networked and outcome-driven.”

Reardon pledged to continue in that direction during the next four years.

“It is an honor to serve the people of the community in which I was born and raised. I am eager to lead our community forward into a future where the return of the great American promise – each generation doing better than the last – is alive and flourishing for those willing to believe in it and work to make it true,” he said.

 Winners to be honored at MLK event, Jan. 12

Winners of the 2012 Prodigies for Peace essay and art contest will be honored at the annual Diversity Partnering Reception to be held from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12, at the Carl Gipson Senior Center, 3025 Lombard Ave. in downtown Everett.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon will present awards, along with Everett Mayor Ray Stephanson; Scott Washburn, President/CEO, YMCA of Snohomish County; and Neil Parekh, Vice President of Marketing and Communications, United Way of Snohomish County.

Winners of this year’s contest are:

Essay winners

Grades 3-5:
1st, Zenaida Zabalza, Hawthorne Elementary, Grade 5
2nd, Marshawna Green, Garfield Elementary, Grade 5
3rd, Gabriel Sepulveda, Discovery Elementary, Grade 4, and Tony MacArthur, Discovery Elementary, Grade 4

Grades 6-8:
1st, Marzia Shirazi, Hazelwood Elementary, Grade 6
2nd, Aja Hart, Valley View Middle School, Grade 8
3rd, David Radu, Hazelwood Elementary,

Grades 9-12:
1st, Faith Dawson, Mariner High, Grade 12, and LeVendrick Smith, Mariner High, Grade 12
2nd, Charlotte Horton, Kamiak High, Grade 9, and Weyni Haddis, Mariner High School
3rd, Jack Malloy, Kamiak High, Grade 9, and Dominik Smith, Kamiak High, Grade 9

Adult 18+:
1st, Markus Smith, Everett Community College, Sophomore

Art winners
Grades 6-8
1st, Miya McLaughlin, Stanwood Middle School, Grade 8
2nd, Mason Meyer, Valley View Middle School, Grade 8
3rd, Lizzy Wirth, Stanwood Middle School, Grade 8

Grades 9-12
1st, Dorothy Song, Mariner High School, Grade 12
Honorable mention, Brittany Murzyn, Lake Stevens High School, Grade 10

The Prodigies for Peace writing and art contest helps students and adults draw connections between the people and the events that shaped the civil rights movement and the social issues that influence our lives today.

Individual seats are still available for this free event and may be reserved by calling 425-257-8751. An RSVP is required.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.

You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.