Aerospace training investments vital to jobs, industry

Earlier this week, state officials announced that $3 million in federal Workforce Investment Act funds would be applied to aerospace training centers throughout Washington, including the Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center in Everett.

News that additional funding will be made available furthers the work that local leaders and myself have already begun. When I worked with local leaders last year to create the Aerospace Training and Research Center in Everett, it was with the goal of keeping the state’s aerospace workforce fully trained so that companies such as Boeing and ATS would have skilled women and men to build the best airplanes in the world.

The first of its kind in the state, this training facility opened last summer and is now preparing workers with the advanced skills needed to build today’s and tomorrow’s airplanes. Our action sent a statement that Snohomish County values its aerospace companies and wants to continue to be home to the tens of thousands of women and men who build the best airplanes in the world.

Already we are seeing results. Boeing has hired 92 percent of the graduates they’ve interviewed. Other local aerospace manufacturers also report finding skilled hires through the training institute.

And we’re just getting started. Through partnership with the private sector, we have laid the foundation for building the next generation of airplanes while developing local residents into highly skilled workers.

Now, centers in Spokane and Renton are successfully following this model.

Continued investment in this field is a must for an industry that employs tens of thousands of people in Washington state. In today’s global economy, it’s imperative that we keep these aerospace training centers properly funded, sending others the signal that Washington state will...
always be the premier place to build airplanes.

Thank you,

Reardon joins Dick's Drive-In owners for Snohomish County groundbreaking

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon with Dick's Drive-In founder Dick Spady.

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon broke ground earlier this week with Dick’s Drive-In founder Dick Spady on the chain’s forthcoming location at 21900 Highway 99, in the northeast corner of the TOP Foods parking lot.

Reardon led the charge last year to land the fast-food restaurant in Snohomish County when Dick’s Drive-In officials asked Puget Sound residents to choose a new location through an online poll.

Snohomish County residents stepped up, putting voting for a new Dick’s south or east of Seattle quickly out of reach.

“Dick’s Drive-In is one of the best burger joints in the Northwest, and I’m pleased they’ve decided to locate here,” Reardon said. “Besides having a great burger, they’re an excellent corporate citizen.”

Dick’s is known for treating employees fairly through good wages and
benefits. They donate to charity and award college scholarships.

“We need more businesses like Dick’s in Snohomish County,” Reardon said.

The chain expects the new location to be open later this year.

**Evergreen State Fair initiates e-ticketing**

Snohomish County will begin selling admission tickets to the 2011 Evergreen State Fair and its events electronically, using Intelli-Mark Technologies’ Etix system.

The move to e-ticketing is part of Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon’s efforts to continue streamlining county functions, creating better efficiencies for residents while also saving taxpayers’ money.

“We are always looking for ways to improve our services, and the annual Evergreen State Fair is no different,” Reardon said.

Beginning June 10, tickets to grandstand concerts, auto races, fair gate admission, rodeo and carnival ride wristbands will be available for purchase online, allowing individuals to choose their own premium reserved seats while printing tickets at home for Evergreen State Fair events.

During past fairs, a burdensome, manual process using paper tickets, hand stamps for re-entry and ticket counters to count the number of individuals passing through the gates has been used for fairgoers to access the fair and events.

The automated e-ticketing system will improve customer service; provide for real-time reporting of ticket sales, revenue and attendance; replace current manual paper ticketing; enhance marketing capabilities; and facilitate web, mobile and social networking options.

Online tickets will be sold through the [www.evergreenfair.org](http://www.evergreenfair.org) website, by calling Etix at 1-800-514-3849, or by visiting the Evergreen State Fairgrounds Administration Office at 14405 179th Ave. SE, Monroe, which is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Residents who sign up to receive the fair’s e-newsletter by June 2 and will receive a pass code for Internet presales (June 6-9) at [www.evergreenfair.org](http://www.evergreenfair.org).

The Evergreen State Fair, started in 1908, is one of the top county fairs in the nation. The animals, exhibits, entertainment, carnival rides and food
are mainstays of the 12-day event that runs Aug. 25–Sept. 5 this year.

For more information about the Evergreen State Fair, click here.

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.