



Association
of Washington
Business

Washington State's Chamber of Commerce

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AWB names Kris Johnson as new vice president operations

Current AWB Vice President Dick Walter to retire at close of 2010

OLYMPIA — The Association of Washington Business announced today that Kristofer T. Johnson will become the state chamber's new vice president of operations. Johnson will come aboard in August and transition into the position.

For the new VP, the move marks a homecoming of sorts. Johnson is returning to Washington state via Minnesota, where he has served for three years as president of the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce. Prior to his St. Paul appointment, Johnson led the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce in Kennewick, where he served on the AWB Board of Directors.

"Kris is an extremely talented organizational manager and a dynamic leader. He brings an array of valuable skills to our leadership team to help AWB in the years ahead. We look forward to having him aboard this summer," said AWB President Don Brunell.

Johnson will succeed Dick Walter, who is retiring at the end of the year. A former member of AWB's

Board of Directors, Walter joined AWB in February 2003 after his retirement from Xerox.

“Dick is a good friend and dedicated and capable AWB staff leader. He did an exceptional job in his time with us,” said Brunell. “During his tenure, he led several initiatives that resulted in substantial membership growth and increased financial stability for the association. Dick also headed AWB’s accreditation effort with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, resulting in AWB being one of only three state chambers to be accredited with distinction, the highest award for a state chamber,” he said.

“Dick will continue to part-time work with AWB on membership development, investment and benefit programs and as the business community member of the state’s emergency management committee,” Brunell added.

During Johnson’s chamber tenure, he built and managed a comprehensive government affairs program that secured millions in state funding for transportation, higher education and other regional priorities. Prior to his work with the Tri-City Regional Chamber, Johnson worked at the Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce as program manager for public affairs. In that position, he directed the public affairs program, lead advocacy efforts on local ballot issues and developed a grassroots program.

Johnson is married with two pre-school aged children and is in the process of relocating to Olympia.

About the Association of Washington Business

Formed in 1904, the Association of Washington Business is Washington’s oldest and largest statewide business association, and includes more than 7,000 members representing 650,000 employees. AWB serves as both the state’s chamber of commerce and the manufacturing and technology association. While its membership includes major employers like Boeing, Microsoft and Weyerhaeuser, 90 percent of AWB members employ fewer than 100 people. More than half of AWB’s members employ fewer than 10. For more about AWB, visit www.awb.org.