



Media Release

For Immediate Release

May 20, 2011

Tri-City Regional Chamber to Celebrate Small Business Month

Tri-Cities, WA – The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce in Partnership with the Small Business Administration recognize the 48th annual proclamation of National Small Business Week May 16-20th, 2011.

The Tri-Cities depends on small businesses to maintain a state of competitiveness when compared to surrounding areas. According to the Automatic Data Processing (ADP), which uses payroll data to track U.S. employment, shows that 82.9% of U.S. employment was in businesses with less than 500 employees.

“We recognize the importance of what small business means to our community,” stated Lori Mattson, President and CEO of the Chamber, “It’s the priority of the Chamber Board of Director’s to aid small business growth, ensuring our region’s economic prosperity.”

Celebration of Small Business Week correlates with last weeks unveiling of the Small Business Resource Center located at the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce. The Small Business Week Celebration also compliments other services the Chamber provides such as our Procurement Technical Assistance Center helping small businesses win government contracts and is also the home for SCORE, which is a nonprofit association dedicated to educating entrepreneurs and helping small businesses start, grow, and succeed. Additionally, the Regional Chamber is collaborating with the Cities of Kennewick and Richland along with the Tri-Cities Research District to provide a single web portal for entrepreneurs seeking streamlined access to services. The partnership is set to launch the portal at the Regional Open for Business Expo in October.

Chamber related activities slated to support National Small Business Week include:

- Network Tri-Cities Luncheon focusing on *Utilizing Energy for Small Businesses*. Wednesday, 11:30 at TRAC
- Meet the Buyer: *Doing Business with the Cities and Counties*. Tuesday, 8:30 AM at the Chamber Office. Representatives from Pasco, Kennewick & Richland and Benton and Franklin Counties will be on hand to meet with small businesses.
- Business Development University: *Branding Your Company and Products*: Thursday, 1:00 PM at the Chamber Office.

Please join us and celebrate Small Business Week!

For more information:

Contact: Jens Lee, Marketing and Membership Director

jens.lee@tricityregionalchamber.com

509.736.0510