



health sciences & services authority of spokane county

December 2009

Dear Friend,

It is that time of year when we like to reflect on our progress and take the opportunity to thank supporters and friends such as you. The Health Sciences & Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County has had an exciting and productive inaugural year, and we would like to share some highlights.

In November, our Board of Directors celebrated its first anniversary since appointment. Here is a brief history of the HSSA and a mention of a few key accomplishments this past year. I believe it is important to take a moment to reflect before we continue to move forward because we have come a long way in a relatively short time.

History

- The Washington legislature created the HSSA in 2007 to promote bioscience-based economic development and promote public health.
- Spokane County formed the HSSA in December 2007.
- The County and the Higher Education Coordinating Board entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in May, 2008.
- The County authorized a sales and use tax of 0.02% effective August 1, 2008.
- Subsequently, inaugural Board Members were appointed by the Governor, Spokane County and the City of Spokane in late 2008, and the Board held its first monthly meeting in November.
- In March, 2008, the Board retained Susan Ashe, Ashe Public Affairs, to serve in the role of Acting Executive Director, and the Board subsequently secured office space, retained a consultant to assist with financial reporting and budgeting, and established a website (<http://www.hssaspokane.org>).
- In addition, the Board secured both General Liability Insurance and Directors and Officers Liability insurance.
- On May 6, 2009, this Board held its first-ever retreat to review and make decisions on a variety of issues to move forward its mission, including identifying grant competitions, grant allocations, grant processes and procedures, as well as hearing about the genesis of the HSSA and about the start-up of the similar but much larger Life Science Discovery Fund.
- The Grant Subcommittee, ably led by Dr. Patricia Butterfield, WSU Intercollegiate School of Nursing, and the HSSA Board Chair, developed the grant allocation process and procedures. With the Board's approval, we initiated two grant competitions: one, in the amount of \$675,000 to increase infrastructure capacity for bioscience research, and the second in the amount of \$225,000 to increase access to health services for underinsured people in Spokane County.

- The HSSA issued its first infrastructure capacity Request for Proposal (RFP) in June, 2009, followed by its second access to health services RFP in July.
- The Board subsequently awarded its first grant of \$675,000 for infrastructure capacity to support bioscience research to the **Institute of Systems Medicine (ISM)**, and selected **Project Access** to receive the \$225,000 grant to increase access to health, subject to satisfactory contract negotiations.
- In addition, we are developing our third and fourth grant competitions (a collaborative challenge grant up to \$100,000 that encourages efficient delivery of health services, and a \$450,000 health sciences research grant pending this Board's approval.
- The HSSA has also initiated discussions with other related funding organizations to discuss ways in which the two organizations may collaborate and leverage funding in the future.
- Finally, the HSSA provided information to the state's Higher Education Coordinating Board, which has HSSA oversight responsibilities, and will be issuing its first report to the legislature about the HSSA.

While we have accomplished a great deal in a short period of time, there is much work to be done if we are to successfully accomplish our mission to promote economic development through bioscience research and promote public health. We are always mindful that we are stewards of the public's money, and have been quite diligent in that regard.

We want to wish you and yours a joyous holiday season, and we look forward to continuing to create bioscience-based economic development and opportunity in Spokane County. Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Isserlis, Chair
HSSA Board of Directors
and
Principal, Winston & Cashatt Lawyers

HSSA Board of Directors are Nancy L. Isserlis, Chair; Earl F. "Marty" Martin, Vice Chair; Patricia Butterfield, Dr. Jeff Collins, Kelsey Gray, Alethea McCann, Mari Thomas, and Mike Wilson.

HSSA's Mission

The Health Sciences and Services Authority (HSSA) promotes bioscience-based economic development and advances new therapies and procedures to combat disease and promotes public health. The HSSA invests funds to create and support a nationally competitive health care cluster in Spokane County catalyzing connections between higher education and health care that lead to high wage jobs, long-term sustainability, and economic diversification. HSSA will fund the very best projects through a competitive, well-monitored and accountable process.