

## VandenBerghe, Alissa (Consultant)

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**From:** Christina Donegan [christinad@seattlechamber.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 14, 2009 7:00 AM  
**To:** Paananen, Ron  
**Subject:** Seattle Chamber of Commerce Newsletter

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**Issue: January 14, 2009**

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**The International Study Mission to Abu Dhabi & Dubai has two spaces available!** Join 80+ regional leaders March 4-14 and learn how these two regions transformed into worldwide hubs for architecture, culture, logistics and business. [Learn more](#) or contact [Anne Maria Jacobson](#) at 206.389.7220 to register.

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[Alaskan Way Viaduct: Chamber Board endorses elected's proposal](#)



The Chamber's **Board of Trustees** used their regularly scheduled meeting yesterday afternoon to pass a unanimous motion officially thanking elected officials and endorsing the proposal made by Governor **Chris Gregoire**, King County Executive **Ron Sims**, and Seattle Mayor **Greg Nickels** to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct with the Deep Bored Tunnel Hybrid Alternative.



Local elected officials, transportation leaders, and community members watch as Mayor Nickels, Governor Gregoire, and County Executive Sims sign the letter of agreement.

In an ensuing letter to the elected officials, Chamber Chair **Taylor Washburn** and President & CEO **Steve Leahy** expressed thanks for listening to stakeholders and the broader community and coming to a decision that does four important things: **keeps people safe; builds capacity, especially for freight; makes financial sense; and causes as little disruption as possible during construction.**

The Chamber pledged to continue working with the elected leaders, as well as the transportation agencies, legislators, councilmembers, and stakeholders to move the project into the next phase. "This is step one of what will be a lengthy road," Washburn told board members.

The Chamber will keep you updated on project developments. In the interim, we've included more information about the proposal below as well as an overview of how we got here:

- **Letter of agreement between State of Washington, King County, and the City of Seattle**
- **Factsheet: Includes map, timeline, and projected costs and responsibilities**
- **Chamber overview of how we got here**

For more information, contact the Chamber's Vice President of Public Affairs Charles Knutson, 206.389.7295.

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## State business groups back coordinated agenda for legislature

With state lawmakers facing a **deficit of at least \$5.7 billion**, business organizations from across the state have banded together in support of a **coordinated agenda** for the 2009 session. Known as the **Washington Alliance for a Competitive Economy (WashACE)**, the coalition will advocate for policies that support four key points:

1. **Develop a sustainable budget that preserves essential public services without raising taxes.** Across our state, families and businesses contend with the challenges created by the most severe economic crisis in recent history. To hasten recovery, lawmakers must provide a



Chamber members talked informally with Governor Gregorie at the December 2008 Public Officials Reception.

**Support the Chamber While Promoting Your Business**

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competitive business environment that nurtures job creation and entrepreneurial business. [Read more](#)

2. **Target higher education investments to programs that contribute directly to economic growth and recommit to education accountability.** In today's knowledge-based economy, the strength of our state's educational institutions, from pre-school through graduate school, is critical. We support efforts to strengthen our academic standards to ensure that all students are adequately prepared for the rigors of continuing education or the workplace. [Read more](#)
3. **Emphasize timely completion of authorized transportation projects for which funding has been committed.** The ability to safely and efficiently move employees and goods around the state is critically important for many employers. While budget conditions may require that we take another look at our transportation priorities, we believe that every effort should be made to complete the transportation projects that are already on the books. [Read more](#)
4. **Reform the state unemployment and workers' compensation programs to prevent uncompetitive increases in employer costs.** Washington's unemployment insurance taxes are the second highest in the nation. Our workers' compensation benefits are third highest. [Read more](#)

### ***What you can do***

The Chamber will keep you informed of progress as the session continues, but you can read more and contribute to the discussion on [WashACE's blog](#).

The Chamber also recently joined [EnterpriseWashington's GROW program](#). Another statewide coalition, GROW provides interactive, web-based tools to help business people identify and locate their elected state and elected officials. GROW also provides information on issues that impact jobs and quality of life. Nothing on this website tells you how to vote—but it gives you the information to make decisions about issues and candidates. To learn more, visit [www.growwa.com/SeattleChamber](http://www.growwa.com/SeattleChamber).

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## **China 2009: Learn about Washington state's largest trading partner**

***Registration deadline is January 29;  
Trip dates are April 17-26***

Experience the wonders of China and learn more about our state's largest trading partner with a nine day trip in April to **Beijing and Shanghai**.

While the [itinerary](#) emphasizes **cultural and historic sites**, participants will also visit the **economic development zones** of Hangzhou and Pudong. They also have the opportunity to attend a reception with **representatives of Chinese firms**.



China 2009: [Click here](#) for a detailed trip overview (PDF)

The \$1899 registration fee includes:

- Round-trip international airfare
- 7 nights at a four-star hotel (double occupancy)
- Three meals a day
- All in-country transportation
- English-speaking tour guides
- Entrance fees to tourist attractions

**Learn more:** Visit [www.seattlechamber.com/china](http://www.seattlechamber.com/china) for detailed information.

**Register:** Contact [Heidi Rempel](#), 206.389.7251.

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## Malcolm Gladwell at Chamber luncheon on Friday. Ticket prices increase tomorrow!

Bestselling author **Malcolm Gladwell** will discuss his latest book *Outliers: The Story of Success* at Legends & Leaders this Friday, January 16. **Only a few seats remain and ticket prices increase tomorrow.** [Register now!](#)

### Legends & Leaders with Malcolm Gladwell

Friday, January 16

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

Grand Hyatt Seattle, 721 Pine Street, Seattle 98101

Members: \$65 pre-paid (\$70 after 1/14)

Non-members: \$75 pre-paid (\$80 after 1/14)

Tables: \$750 for a table with 10 premium seats

(All prices include both lunch and a copy of Gladwell's book.)

[Register online](#) or contact [Larry Pike](#), 206.389.7215.



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## Technology Thursdays: Four-part series on cost-effective tech solutions

### Part one: Grow your business online

Learn how to build your business online using Microsoft Small Business Office Live.

Our expert **Skip Chilcott** will show you how to:

- **Get Online:** Grow your business online with a FREE Web site and e-mail, plus low cost e-commerce tools.
- **Attract New Customers:** Promote your business and generate sales with easy-to-use, affordable e-mail marketing and keyword advertising products.
- **Manage Your Business:** Manage sales opportunities, projects, documents, and more with FREE online business applications.



Chilcott will also preview small business marketing trends and demonstrate Office Live for Small Business.

### Technology Thursdays: Grow Your Business Online

Thursday, January 22

Noon - 1:30 p.m.

One Union Square Boardroom, 600 University St., Seattle 98101  
\$20 (\$25 after 1/20; lunch provided) *Chamber members only*  
[Register online](#) or contact [Nikki Ross](#), 206.389.7338.

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## Network with Trade Alliance members, Jan. 29

Expand your international business opportunities locally at the **Trade Development Alliance's Winter Schmooze** networking event, January 29 at [Regal Financial Bank](#).

In honor of the 2009 International Study Mission to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the Winter Schmooze will feature foods of the Middle East from [Kasbah restaurant](#).



### Trade Development Alliance Winter Schmooze

Thursday, January 29

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Regal Financial Bank

925 4th Avenue, Ste 100, Seattle, WA 98104

\$35 pre-paid; \$40 at the door. **RSVP Required**

[Register online](#) or contact [Samantha Paxton](#), 206.389.7319.

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## Chamber congratulates Ezell's on 25 years. Join the celebration on Feb. 7

**Celebration and award program Feb. 7 at Seattle Westin Hotel**



"It takes a community to raise a business." That's the theme of the celebration and awards program organized by **Ezell's Famous Chicken** to acknowledge the individuals and organizations within the community that contributed to Ezell's success. Their support made it possible for Ezell's to offer a quality product and service, to give back in volunteer time and donations, and to provide employment to thousands of community youth and adults over the last 25 years.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to [The Urban League Scholars Program](#).

**More information:** Visit [www.ezellschicken.com](http://www.ezellschicken.com) or contact [Carmen Mitchell](#), 206.371.5895.

Do you have company news to share? Post it online at [www.seattlechamber.com/membernews](http://www.seattlechamber.com/membernews).

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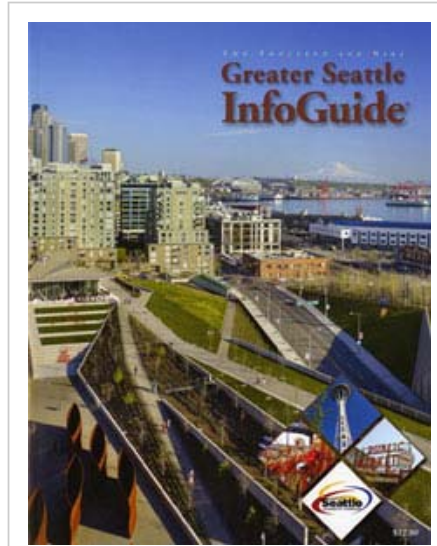
## 2009 relocation guide now available. Save on bulk orders!

The Chamber's official relocation publication is called the **InfoGuide** and is published annually by longtime member **Vernon Publications, Inc.**

It's an ideal piece for prospective residents, potential clients, and visitors. Featuring detailed chapters on the regional economy, education, health care, transportation, and recreation, it captures the essence of life around the Puget Sound region.

### ***Savings start at 20% for orders of 10***

Copies of the *InfoGuide* are \$8.00 each for members and \$12.00 for non-members. The Chamber is offering its members a **bulk rate discount** starting at 20% off the member price. **Buy now:** contact [Gina Morales](#), 206.389.7256.



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## Welcome new members

Welcome new members that joined in December.

### **Silver-level members**

- [Canlis Glass](#)

### **Executive-level members**

- [FedEx Corporation](#)

### **Corporate-level members**

- [Coffman Engineers](#)
- [Genco, LLC](#)
- [Intelligent Effects, LLC](#)
- [Smead Capital Management](#)
- [Summit Law Group](#)
- [The Pyramid Breweries & Alehouse](#)

### **Entrepreneur-level members**

- [Children's Bookshop](#)
- [GMMB](#)
- Northwest Commercial Real Estate Investments, LLC
- [Robert Loe & Associates](#)

- [Saxton & Bradley](#)
- [Seattle Education Association](#)
- [Special Olympics Washington](#)
- [The Effectiveness Institute, Inc.](#)
- [Two Men and a Truck](#)
- [Washington News Council](#)

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