



Media Release  
For Immediate Release  
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## Tri-City Regional Chamber to Host World Trade Month Awareness Campaign

Tri-Cities, WA – The Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce in Partnership with the Washington State Potato Commission invites you to attend a press conference May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. in the Bechtel Board room at the Tri-Cities Business & Visitor Center. The scheduled press conference will highlight the details surrounding the month long campaign which will culminate with the Network Tri-Cities Luncheon and guest speaker Bill Bryant, Commissioner of the Port of Seattle. Bryant will focus on the topic of the importance of international trade to our local and state's economy, and will discuss some of the challenges confronting our state's trade competitiveness. The Network Tri-Cities Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 12 – 1:30 p.m. and will be held at the TRAC in Pasco.

The Tri-Cities region relies on our agricultural economy to maintain a state of competitiveness when compared to surrounding states. The import and exportation of goods and products out of the Tri-Cities is only one part of the World Trade Month awareness campaign. Free trade means more jobs for our residents as foreign companies are locating to our region. World trade month will provide opportunities for local, regional and national issues to be highlighted through our local media partners in an attempt to educate our community on the importance of free trade and how our community is directly affected by the issue.

In 2008, Washington State was the number one ranking state in cash receipts for apple crops at 66.7 percent (USDA, Leading Commodities by State, 2008). In addition, Washington State was second to only the state of Idaho for Percent of Total receipts for potatoes grown in the United States at 19.1 percent (USDA, Leading Commodities by State, 2008). Japan alone purchases approximately 65 percent of the French fries made from Washington potatoes that are exported each year (Washington State Potato Commission, Spud Facts 2010).

The press conference will include Bryan Alford, Former Commissioner, Washington State Potato Commission, Jon DeVaney, Executive Director, Yakima Valley Growers and Shippers Association, Jason Modrell, Manager of Government Programs and Business Development, Infinia Corporation, Pat Jensen, Business Manager, Tidewater Barge Lines, and Alan Schreiber, Executive Director, Washington Asparagus Commission along with Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce Staff.

For more information:  
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