



CONTACTS:

Debbie Little
Workforce Development Council
Snohomish County
(425) 921-3488
debbie.little@wdcsc.org

Shanny L. Peer or Kelly Sakai
Families and Work Institute
(212) 465-2044 x217 x211
speer@familiesandwork.org
ksakai@familiesandwork.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 27, 2009

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SNOHOMISH COUNTY RECOGNIZED FOR
EXEMPLARY WORKPLACE PRACTICES**

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County awarded the prestigious Alfred P. Sloan Award at a luncheon hosted by the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce

Everett, Washington (July 27, 2009) – The current recession – considered one of the worst since the Great Depression in the 1930s – is proving to be a “game changer” for organizations in all sectors of the economy. A study conducted by the Families and Work Institute in May 2009 found that most companies (81%) are maintaining the workplace flexibility they offer during the recession and another 13% are increasing it. The question remains: to what extent are employers able to continue be good places for employees to work while dealing with these very difficult business survival issues?

The winners of the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility offer a unique picture of organizations that are finding this middle ground. “From new forms of flexible work arrangements that minimize lay-offs, to creative cost-cutting that retains core medical benefits, to providing financial information and support to employees, these employers are braving the economic storm through innovative policies that prevent undue shock to their workplaces and their employees,” said Ellen Galinsky, President, Families and Work Institute.

The Sloan Awards honor organizations of all sizes and all types in the Puget Sound area and across the country that are using workplace flexibility as a strategy to increase workplace effectiveness and yield positive business results.

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County, selected to receive the Alfred P. Sloan Award for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility, will be honored by the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon on August 6, 2009 at the Washington Athletic Club in downtown Seattle. WDCSC’s innovative workplace practices include offering staff customizable work schedules, including teleworking options and support as well as enhanced flexibility.

“We are thrilled to be recognized for our innovative workplace,” explains Sue Ambler, CEO of Workforce Development Council Snohomish County. “I firmly believe that in order to maintain

the best human resources possible, our workplace must work for our employees. When people are able to manage their schedule to benefit their families and business, we all win.”

The Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility are part of the *When Work Works* project, an ongoing initiative of Families and Work Institute, the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce), and the Twiga Foundation. Through *When Work Works*, these partner organizations provide research, resources, and recognition to employers nationwide. The project shares the results of research on creating effective and flexible workplaces that meet the needs of the 21st century.

Each of the 2009 Sloan Award winners will also be recognized nationally and will be featured in next year’s edition of the *Guide to Bold New Ideas for Making Work Work*, published by Families and Work Institute.

Now in its fifth year, the prestigious awards program expanded its application base to organizations nation-wide for the first time in 2009. With the introduction of an “at-large” category and 30 participating communities across the country, any organization in the U.S. was eligible for the award. Applicants were evaluated in a rigorous two-step process, first comparing the employer’s application to nationally representative data from Families and Work Institute’s *National Study of Employers*, and then corroborating the employer responses through a survey of employees.

For more information about *When Work Works* or the Alfred P. Sloan Awards, please contact Shanny Peer at (212) 465-2044 x 217 or at speer@familiesandwork.org or Kelly Sakai at (212) 465-2044 x 211 and at ksakai@familiesandwork.org.

ABOUT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SNOHOMISH COUNTY (WDCSC)

WDCSC invests government and private funding to continuously increase the global competitiveness and prosperity of county workforce and businesses, fill current and emerging jobs, and provide full employment. Investments are made through effective business, labor, community-based, educational, and service provider organizations for the opportunity, economic well-being, and benefit of our entire community. www.wdcsc.org

ABOUT FAMILIES AND WORK INSTITUTE

Families and Work Institute (FWI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization that studies the changing workforce, family and community. As a preeminent think tank, FWI is known for being ahead of the curve, identifying emerging issues, and then conducting rigorous research that often challenges common wisdom and provides insight and knowledge. As an action tank, FWI conducts numerous studies that put its research into action and then evaluates the results. Its *purpose is to create research to live by*. For more information, see www.familiesandwork.org.

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE FOR A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE

The Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW) is a 501(c)3 affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and is working to ensure that businesses have access—today and tomorrow—to an educated and skilled workforce. ICW’s primary responsibilities for the *When Work Works* project are to provide support to the communities and connect local initiatives to national Chamber efforts. For more information, visit www.uschamber.com/icw

ABOUT THE TWIGA FOUNDATION

The Twiga Foundation is dedicated to inspiring, promoting and maintaining a family

consciousness at home, in the workplace and in the community. Twiga's primary responsibilities for the *When Work Works* project are to provide support to the communities, acting as a liaison to key stakeholders in the *When Work Works* communities to build a broad local leadership constituency for creating better workplaces that meet the needs of employees, employers and communities. For more information, visit www.twigafoundation.org

###