



Twenty on the Twenty

A 20-second (or so) monthly update about co-op development in the Pacific Northwest provided to you on or about the 20th of each month. **Please share with your network!**

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WTV Trucker Cooperative Seeks Brokers License

The Board of Directors of the Western Treasure Valley Truckers Cooperative moved ahead with plans to to begin a brokerage. At their June 18th board meeting and planning session with NWCDC, the board elected officers (Gustavo Morales as president, Placido Madera as Vice President, Demetrio Rayo as Treasurer and Juan Escobedo as Secretary. The Board also appointed Sr. Escobedo to the position of interim "Broker/Dispatcher/Manager". The primary duties this position will be to seek freight contracts for members and encourage more owner-operators to join the cooperative. The Board will also be seeking a Broker's license which will allow the Co-op to dispatch contracts to non-members. The board will formalize the position description at a future meeting, but wanted to be ready for the upcoming season that begins in July. Sr. Escobedo has a long career in the Western Treasure Valley and numerous contacts among producers and others needing short-haul freight services. In other news, plans have moved forward to build a freight depot in Ontario (pending approval by the State legislature).

USDA Elevates Rural Development

The USDA elevated its Rural Development to the status of "mission area" and replaced the position of undersecretary with a new Assistant to the Secretary for Rural Development. Anne Hazlett, an Ag lawyer with extensive experience in rural communities of Indiana has been named to the new position. Secretary Purdue, in an email to the Department, wrote: "With this addition to USDA Rural Development, rural America will have a seat at the main table and Anne will have walk-in privileges with me on day one. The increased emphasis on Rural Development at USDA is in recognition of the economic difficulties facing rural communities, which have lagged behind other parts of the country in prosperity. Fighting poverty wherever it exists is a challenge facing this country, as nearly 85 percent of America's persistently impoverished counties are in rural areas. Rural childhood poverty rates are at their highest point since 1986, affecting one in four rural children, with deep poverty among children being more prevalent in rural areas (12.2 percent) than in urban areas (9.2 percent). Anne Hazlett will be heading up our efforts to rectify this situation. "

Co-op Academy Planned for Tacoma

As the inaugural South Sound Worker Co-op Academy wraps up its beta-test in Olympia, plans are underway for a South Salish Co-op Academy offer support to the communities of Tacoma and Lakeview. NWCDC has applied for an SBA Prime grant to provide classes and one-to-one technical assistance in a partnership with the Center for Inclusive Entrepreneurship and the Clover Park Technical College. These two communities have some of the highest levels of poverty in the state. The cooperative model teaches the values of mutual self-help and self-responsibility by engaging people solidarity and sense of community. If the grant application is successful, classes will start early next year.



CFED IS PROSPERITY NOW

Our partners and friends at CFED have a new name! On June 19, the Corporation for Enterprise Development became Prosperity Now. The name, along with a [new website](#) and refreshed brand, is broad enough to encompass all the great work they do, but simple enough to be instantly understandable.

Prosperity Now President Andrea Levere sums it up: "With the issues we care about commanding more attention than ever before, we feel now is the time to ensure our name is clear, concise and aspirational. 'Prosperity' is synonymous with a healthier and more fulfilling life, which starts with helping people save, build wealth and climb the economic ladder."

Although their name has changed, their mission has not. Prosperity Now more clearly conveys the organization's vision and work. Prosperity Now will continue to be an important source for new data and analysis about the struggles facing those in our country with limited income—especially individuals and families of color—as well as policies and programs that help people achieve financial stability and prosper. We encourage you to explore their updated website for key research and solutions on poverty, wealth inequality and the racial wealth divide. Congratulations to our friends at Prosperity Now!

Help us provide technical assistance to co-ops!

A lot of the funding for our work comes through the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development mission. **Rural grants only go so far and urban areas have few, if any resources.** You don't have to wait for the end of the year to support our programs! You can provide a [tax deductible](#) one-time donation or monthly sustaining gift to help fund the work of co-op development!

You can even earmark specific projects.

[DONATE NOW!](#)

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