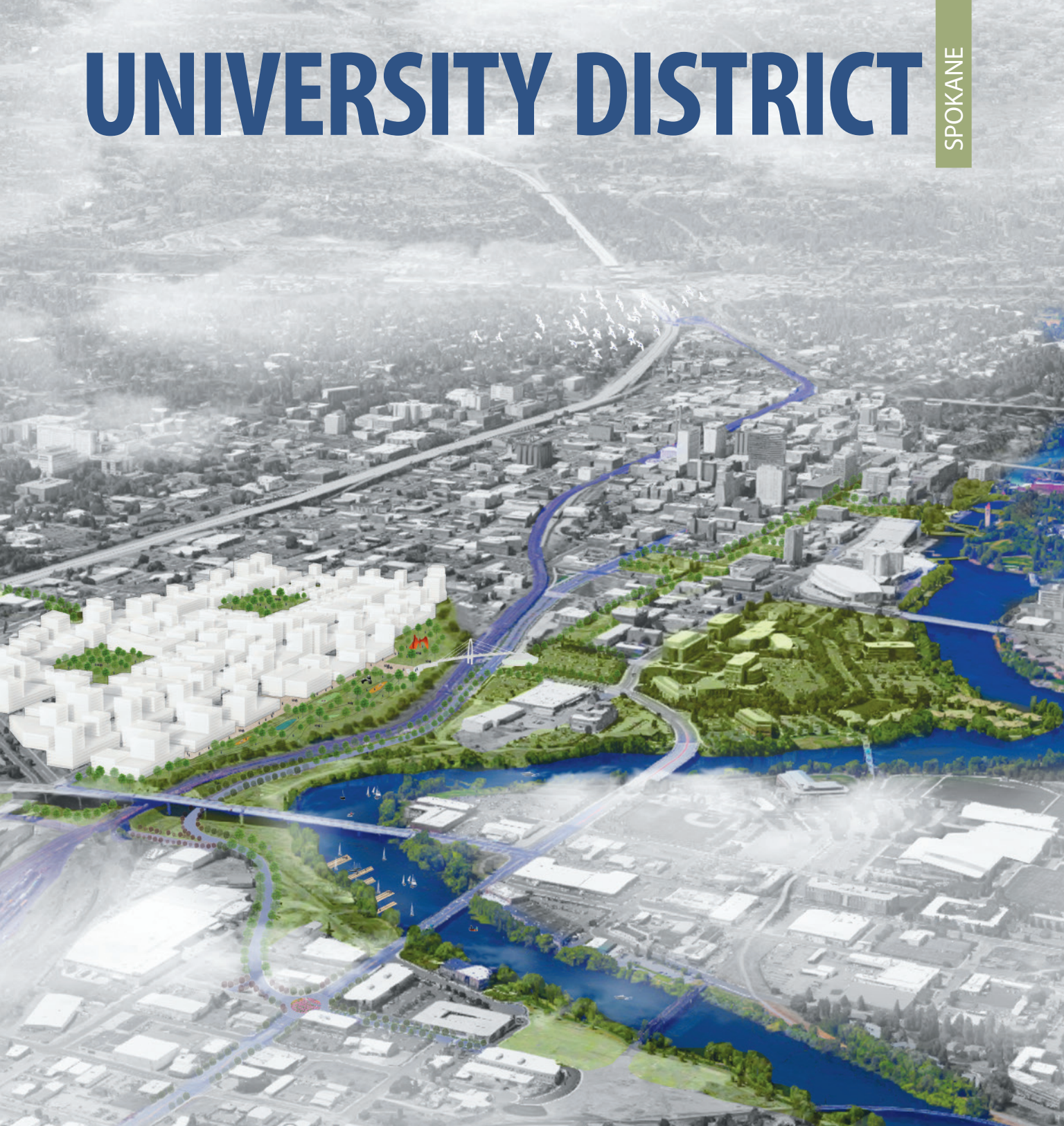


UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

SPOKANE



Collaboration and Transformation

2016-17 SPOKANE UNIVERSITY DISTRICT MAGAZINE



A Supplement To The Journal Of Business



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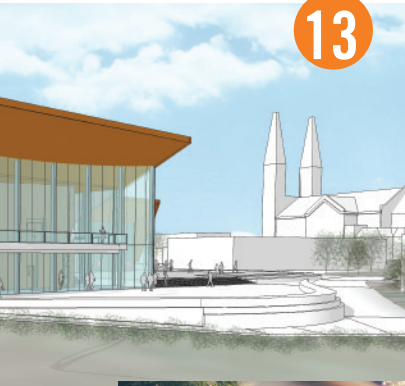


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4 **Welcome & Leadership**
University District 2016 board members, contributors and a welcome from Executive Director Mark Robert Mansfield

7 **Collaborators**
Conversations with local leaders

10 **Collaboration & Transformation**
The conditions of urban transformation

13 **Right Place**
Building projects generating buzz

16 **Our River**
Ecological Alliance river research and stewardship

18 **Down to a Science**
Life sciences collaborations taking hold

23 **Art Scene**
A local arts leader shares her favorites

24 **University District Map**
Points of interest, collaboration and transformation

26 **Point A to B**
Mobility in The University District

30 **New & Next**
Entrepreneur resources, future city design and revisiting a childhood science project

35 **Campus Research & Learning**
News from University District campuses

40 **Outdoors & Active**
University District recreation

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TOGETHER WE WILL

At the University of Washington, we believe that our best work is done when we link arms. That's why we're committed to teaming with communities and institutions across our state, including the University of Washington School of Medicine-Gonzaga University Partnership. Together, we're working to educate the next generation and nurture healthier futures for Washington — and beyond.

Discover how the UW is fostering collaboration:

uw.edu/spokane

BE BOUNDLESS



Welcome & Leadership



Mark Robert Mansfield, PhD
Executive Director, University District

Last year, The White House announced “Envision America”, a challenge for cities to become smarter by accelerating deployment of innovative technologies. Because of the efforts of The University District, Spokane was recognized as one of the top 10 U.S. cities best positioned to work together as a community to accomplish these goals. Earlier this year, I stood with delegates from Spokane along with representatives from New York, Chicago, San Diego, and the other winning cities. This recognition is yet another artifact of the collaborations in our community and the power we have to create something bigger, together.

Another memorable moment was welcoming Governor and Mrs. Inslee along with Mayor Condon, City Council President Stuckart and many other esteemed guests from our community to celebrate the largest single transportation investment in our state's history. This funding is enabling multiple projects in and intersecting with The University District. These projects make new connections in our community and will not only determine how we move around our city and region, but also elevate and transform the very character of the city and the way we live.

I am deeply aware of the communities that continually shape me and know that as we develop The University District we are, at the same time, shaping the legacy of our city and its citizens. This is our opportunity to re-imagine our urban environment and how we want to live. Throughout this magazine, you will find many examples of the ways we are working together to transform Spokane. Collectively, the articles that follow amplify the opportunities for continued community collaboration and the promise of transformation.



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With special thanks to contributing authors and University District Communication Group Members.

This magazine is made possible through a partnership between The University District and the Spokane Journal of Business.

Alden Jones

Editor, University District

Carly Taylor

Johanna Balaszi

Graphic Designers, Journal of Business



Opportunity Awaits

It's been 27 years since Avista helped lay the groundwork for the restoration of 770 acres east of downtown Spokane. At the time, few imagined that an abandoned rail yard could be transformed into the home of six institutions of higher education.

Today, the University District is an urban confluence of technology, learning and economic vitality for the entire region.

What's next for Spokane's University District? The possibilities are endless. And Avista is proud to continue to help shape that future.

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Karl Otterstrom

Director of Planning, Spokane Transit Authority
Board Chair, The University District

Putting on your day job hat, what does great urban connectivity look like in The University District?

Connectivity is a means to an end. When I think of connectivity of any sort, I start with relative placement and proximity. In the case of The University District, it involves a confluence of people, ideas, amenities and institutions. Placement and proximity are important, but on their own do not result in exceptional transit connectivity.

Good urban connectivity derives from a commitment by leaders and leading organizations to collaborate, innovate and implement. The manifestation of that connectivity includes the implementation of The University District Gateway Bridge as well as the coordination of ongoing development and communication interests between the organizations and partnerships of The University District.

How does connectivity evolve with the growth of The University District?

The University District is poised to grow its employment and population base over the coming decade. While somewhat similar to past transformations, the current trajectory is unique in that it has tremendous capacity for economic development and intensification of land use. Meanwhile, technology is rapidly changing. Smart City initiatives, coupled with collaborative problem-solving in urban matters, will create novel solutions to support the vision of The University District. This constellation of opportunities makes it a momentous and transformative time to be associated with The University District.



David Condon

Mayor, City of Spokane
Board Member, The University District

What does nothing short of a major urban renaissance in The University District look like to you?

The University District has tremendous strengths in higher education and health care. New and coming transportation infrastructure and renewed economic vitality among surrounding businesses and neighborhoods has The University District poised to be a bellwether for state-of-the-art transportation, leading-edge utility grid technology, smart and sustainable land use and development, thoughtful historic preservation, and enviable parks, arts and recreation pursuits. We have all the ingredients to make something truly exceptional and it's exciting to see it coming together.

What's the City's role in The University District?

The City is investing in critical infrastructure improvements that will jump-start other investment and create new workforce opportunities. One of those investments is the The University District Gateway Bridge, slated for completion in 2018 and the linchpin that joins—literally and figuratively—the city's hospital complex to the south with the university/research and business/entrepreneurial communities to the north. The bridge is the centerpiece of the visioning work that's well underway.

Do you think there's value in including voices beyond our community in The University District development process?

Our best outcomes have come from engagements with multiple inputs. Seeking other perspectives and lessons learned and encouraging the exchange of ideas are invaluable. The knowledge base to improve and strengthen Spokane goes beyond city borders. We can learn a lot from other communities about what has worked, what more could be done and what will deliver the most sustainable, livable, productive and prosperous Spokane.



Ben Stuckart

President, Spokane City Council
Board Member, The University District

How is the City Council collaborating with The University District to realize new opportunities?

The City is committed to its partnership with The University District, Spokane's most important future generator of economic growth. For example, the City Council made the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at WSU Health Sciences Spokane its top legislative priority in 2015. Its approval is already paying dividends for Spokane.

The City Council and administration are helping the University District Public Development Authority realize its enormous growth potential. As the convener for University District partners, the City Council's recognition of the need for resources to participate in new development is driving action, such as approving an asset transfer policy and securing a

loan to The University District to be repaid from the tax increment financing district. In 2015, the City Council approved a city-wide economic incentives program, focused on specific geographic areas, one of which is The University District.

By working with the legislature to fully fund The University District Gateway Bridge, the Council is creating opportunities for The University District's growth to the south and enhancing revitalization near East Sprague. Also, completing Martin Luther King Jr Way will increase the strength of our partnership and The University District's opportunities in the future.

We have never been more committed to the success of The University District!

"We have never been more committed to the success of The University District!"

Collaborators



Scott Morris

Chairman and CEO, Avista Corp
Board Chair, Gonzaga University

What makes Spokane stand out as a business location? At the top of the list is our willingness to work together as a community and understand that everyone benefits when we work collaboratively. The 2013 Tripp Umbach report defined the extraordinary opportunity Spokane has to realize \$1.7 billion in regional economic impact through development of medical education, health sciences research and related business in Spokane. Now, with two schools of medicine in The University District—not to mention the assets of Gonzaga, EWU, Whitworth and the Community Colleges of Spokane—we have a strong foundation on which to grow. Add to that world-class health care at local hospitals, advanced manufacturing capabilities, animal and food sciences expertise, bioinformatics and related industries, public and private capital, and nationally-recognized smart cities initiative, and you'll see what makes Spokane shine. Companies that look closely will be impressed.

Can we translate all these assets into real opportunities? Absolutely, but we need ongoing collaborations and strong support services such as incubators, mentoring programs, patent expertise, venture capital and infrastructure improvements. Part of Seattle's resilience during the Great Recession was due to their highly collaborative life sciences ecosystem positioned near major research institutions in a revitalized South Lake Union. We can do our own version here, and reimagine the resurgence of the area between the South Landing of The University District Gateway Bridge up to the hospitals.

What's the smart cities initiative and why does it matter? It's an important differentiator for Spokane, a living laboratory that reflects the collaborative and collegial approach here. We have not yet imagined all the ways integrated technology can lead to energy efficiencies and an improved quality of life; but Avista's commitment to digitize the grid and make it more relevant to customers, reflects our intention to be on the leading edge of change and sustainability.



Luisita Francis, MD

Associate Dean, Community Engagement, WSU
Health Sciences Spokane

What do you see as the one key ingredient for success in The University District?

Collaboration. It's the cornerstone of our work at Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine, and we see it in action every day. From our partnerships with Eastern Washington University, the Spokane Smart City Accelerator, the Spokane Teaching Health Clinic and Gonzaga University, we are consistently involved in and seeking authentic engagements within the community.

Why is collaboration so significant to you?

Collaborations reverberate and cause a ripple effect. They transform the landscape and fortify relationships. We get so inspired by what we hear others are doing and by what we can do together that we feel compelled to extend these conversations to those who were not at the table.

How do you make "collaboration" happen day to day?

It's all about cultivating an open, contagious, overlapping dialogue—with students, researchers, community activists, public officials, entrepreneurs, and even friends and neighbors—that is triggered by and in turn triggers more collaborations, and ultimately a more dynamic vision of a vibrant life and health sciences community. We have an amazing opportunity together to harness and leverage our collective energy and multidisciplinary expertise and make The University District a center of medical and entrepreneurial excellence.

"It's all about cultivating an open, contagious, overlapping dialogue"

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover

Illustration by Miller Hull Partnership showing a vision of future urban transformation created through community visioning charrettes—see article in Collaboration & Transformation section on page 10.

Contents

From left to right: Illustration courtesy Gonzaga University (GU); photos courtesy Washington State University (WSU); Getty Images; Getty Images; University of Washington (UW); Illustration by Miller Hull Partnership.

Welcome & Leadership

Page 4 Photo by Dean Davis Photography

Collaborators

Page 7 photos courtesy Spokane Transit Authority (STA) and City of Spokane; page 8 photos courtesy Avista Corporation and WSU Health Sciences Spokane

Collaboration & Transformation

Page 10 both illustrations by Miller Hull Partnership
Page 11 (top) illustration by Miller Hull Partnership; (bottom) illustration by BernardolWills Architects and Flad Architects courtesy of Avista Development

Right Place

Page 13 illustrations courtesy GU; page 14 architectural renderings by Wolfe Architectural Group (WAG) courtesy of Jensen-Byrd Development; page 15 illustration courtesy WSU Health Sciences Spokane

Our River

Page 16 Getty Images

Down to a Science

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Art Scene

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Point A to B

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New & Next

Page 30-31 photo by Dean Davis, courtesy Avista Corporation

Campus Research & Learning

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Outdoors & Active

Page 40 Getty Images

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From local mentoring programs to the new UW School of Medicine – Gonzaga University Regional Health Partnership and more, Gonzaga is committed to meaningful collaborations that serve our community. In the University District and beyond, Gonzaga transforms people and places through teamwork and action.

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THE CONDITIONS OF TRANSFORMATION

Mark Robert Mansfield, PhD, Executive Director, The University District

City is rarely static. Change, however, is not always synonymous with transformation. Even with over \$740 million dollars in public, private and institutional investments in The University District in recent years, how do we realize more than a calculus of economic development? How do we seize this moment to realize our transformative potential? What is the condition for such transformation? Not just incremental growth or the addition of new structures to the built environment, but a profound change in how we live that improves our overall quality of life.

Over the past years, the University District Development Association has brought together community interests to engage these questions and, this year, led a series of visioning exercises to explore opportunities of transformation by fundamentally rethinking the principles, processes, and priorities of urbanism in Spokane.

Community Visioning

Building on the work of The University District Strategic Master Plan from 2004 and a history of collaboration, the visioning sessions brought together community members. In June, over a hundred local leaders and stakeholders contributed during a two-day workshop. In September, a public open house provided a forum to explore a series of design boards and share ideas about

future developments. Additionally, the design boards and a feedback form were available to the public online.

This process has been fortified by connecting with a vanguard of leading ideas, emblematic of how The University District continually operates at the intersection of ideas and practice, research and its application. For example, in addition to our many local thought leaders, we collaborated with The Miller Hull Partnership, responsible for what is arguably, the world's most sustainable commercial building—The Bullitt Center in Seattle. Architect Brian Court, principal of the firm, headed a team applying the integrated systems-thinking of this building

at the scale of The University District. Similarly, Megan Saffitz, of the U.S. Green Building Council, has brought together a leadership team across programs related to wellness and health, land use, power systems and mobility design standards to inform district-wide principles for development. Recently inaugurated buildings in The University District promote the highest level of LEED Certification—the leading benchmark for sustainable design. The current visioning work aims to expand these “green” building principles, and other programs, to a district-wide and, ultimately, a city-wide agenda. Also noteworthy is Jon Snyder, policy advisor to Washington State Governor Jay



Inslee and former Spokane City Council member, who has been an advocate for outdoor recreation and economic initiatives in Spokane that expand mobility options via a network of trails and paths.

One of the most intriguing aspects of this work is the opportunity to realize a future that transcends the market conditions of parcel-by-parcel investments in order to support a shared, community vision and strategy. Input from these sessions has been synthesized into exhibits (some depicted on these pages), that project an urban model that not only tends to the business of health, but also to a truly healthy city. As such, you will see in these images, the community's expressed interest in expanding and providing better access to our river and nature, in prioritizing people first mobility, in reconceiving the asset of our public right-of-ways, and in converting concrete and asphalt, currently just for cars, into green cor-

ridors. Exhibits, such as the illustration on the cover of this magazine, project strategies for more walkable, connected neighborhoods, with greater density and more open green spaces (see the sidebar on the following page highlighting some of the principles, processes,

and priorities shaping University District developments).

From Strategy to Practice

The increasing investments around the future South Landing of The University District Gateway Bridge underscores



Converting public right of ways to "green streets"



One proposal for the South Landing Development Site

Collaboration & Transformation

the value and foresight of the evolving vision and commitments to apply the strategies, from this ongoing process, to practice. Roger Woodworth, with Avista Development, provided key support in furthering this visioning process. Currently, Latisha Hill, Senior Vice President of Avista Development, is securing the potential of these ideas, by mobilizing a catalytic development that is putting the strategies for transformation into practice. This development provides a new commercial hub for the expanding health-care and life science research sectors. It connects the research and academic campuses with the hospital complex on the lower South Hill, furthering the mission of The University District to engage many community stakeholders in a shared vision.

Right to the City

Each iteration of The University District vision is illuminating alternatives, bringing community stakeholders closer together and creating landmark developments, as evidenced by The University District Gateway Bridge and South Landing development projects, both expected to break ground in 2017. It stands to reason that transformation is most effective when plans come from a shared community vision. We have a profound opportunity to make and remake our city and, by extension, ourselves. This is our right to the city; a community led vision, the essence of true transformational urbanism. ■

As part of the visioning exercise, we captured community ideas through transcriptions, questionnaires, and on-line surveys. Combined, the ideas constitute representative exhibits used in this publication. Additionally, select ideas are noted here:

District Principles

- Promote “people first” developments
- Safety and quality of life
- Mixed use; amenity rich
- Higher-density urban village living
- Environmental preservation and restoration
- Transportation improvements

Processes

- Reconsider land use
- Path of Progress – phased infrastructure investments
- Identify potential neighborhood formation
- Strategic co-location of synergistic interests
- Promote job growth-related development
- Support a range of housing options
- Create vistas and corridors to connect to the river
- Create urban parks
- Expand transit options
- Increase dedicated bicycle and pedestrian routes
- Reduce car dependency

Priorities

- Reinvest property tax revenue in the area
- Construct quality public infrastructure to encourage private investment
- Achieve strong transit networks and Central City Line rapid transportation
- Create an integrated parking strategy
- Link network of trails, paths, and parks
- Increase river access and waterfront improvements
- Create pedestrian plazas and thoroughfares
- Expand the number of street trees and “green” areas

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*through direct expression
while engaging our
surroundings to enhance
the human experience*



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Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

GONZAGA GROWS

By Mary Joan Hahn, Gonzaga University and University District Communication Group Member

Gonzaga intends to break ground in spring 2017 on the \$30 million Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, a transformative facility made possible by an extraordinary \$55 million gift from the late Miss Myrtle Woldson. Final approval from Gonzaga's Board of Trustees is anticipated later this year.

Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center

Gonzaga President and University District board member Thayne McCulloh said the estimated 57,550-square-foot, two-story building, expected to be completed by winter 2018, sets in motion a new era for Gonzaga's leadership in the creative arts and the humanities while providing a magnificent venue for the entire community. The building and the Jundt Art Center and Museum will form the keystones of an arts village on the west side of campus, anchoring programs in music, theater, dance and the visual arts. The new building will face south toward the Jundt Art Center and Museum and the Spokane River. It will be located immediately south of the former Knights of Columbus building. The facility will feature a 750-seat performance theatre (including approximately 400 seats on the main level), a 150-seat recital/rehearsal hall for music and dance, a two-story lobby with box office, and dedicated space for instruction and projects involving a variety of open space arts disciplines—fostering experimentation and collaboration. Pfeiffer Partners of Los Angeles is the lead architect for the facility with Bernardo|Wills Architects (BWA) of Spokane. The theatre and music consultant is Auerbach Pollock Friedlander of San Francisco. The building targets "Gold" certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system.

Center for Athletic Achievement

The 51,240-square-foot Center for Athletic Achievement, to be built directly south of the Martin Centre, will help student-athletes succeed in competition, in the classroom and in life after college. With an estimated cost of \$24 million, the building will house student-athlete support services, a weight room, nutrition center, basketball practice court, Gonzaga Athletic Hall of Fame, and multiple meeting areas. Combined with spaces in the Martin Centre and McCarthy Athletic Center, the building will provide Gonzaga student-athletes with among the finest facilities and support services in the nation. ALSC Architects of Spokane is the architect for the project, which is expected to open in early fall 2017.

The Jesuit Residence

The 36,074-square-foot Jesuit Residence will be built at the north-west corner of Boone Avenue and Astor Street as part of Gonzaga's commitment to its mission as a Catholic and Jesuit institution. The facility, with an estimated cost of \$12.3 million, will maintain a thriving and highly visible presence of Jesuits on Gonzaga's campus. It will serve as a home for Jesuits in residence, include reflective space to support Jesuits seeking retreat, provide appropriate office work and collaboration space for teaching and research, and link the central life of the Jesuit community with Gonzaga students, faculty and staff. BAR Architects of San Francisco along with BWA of Spokane are architects for the project, which is expected to open in early fall 2017. ■



JENSEN-BYRD DEVELOPMENT REINVISIONING A KEY LOCATION

By Kim Pearman-Gillman, McKinstry and University District Board Past Chair

Home to six of Washington's finest higher education institutions, The University District is an exciting success story for Spokane. Just a decade and a half ago, it was one of Spokane's least-desired neighborhoods. Today, it's a beacon of Spokane's transition into a modern and vibrant city where place-based economic development is thriving.

Innovative businesses dot the landscape on both sides of the river. Thoughtful district-wide planning emphasizes walkability, creativity and a connection to Spokane's natural beauty. Makerspaces, innovation centers and breweries attract the best minds in the region.

The Jensen-Byrd development is part of this trend and—with its unique connection to WSU's growing health sciences campus shared with Eastern Washington University—it will further catalyze the ongoing evolution of The University District.

Since its construction by the Marshall-Wells Hardware Co. in 1909, what we now call the Jensen-Byrd building has been a six-story monument to Spokane's role in connecting the Inland Northwest to points near and far. Now, a private development team has partnered with WSU Spokane to redevelop the historic Jensen-Byrd building and the surrounding site to create a crucial gateway between Spokane's business corridor and the growing University District, re-connecting a link between the region's bustling past and a vibrant, promising future.

The development team, named Jensen-Byrd LLC, is headed by McKinstry CEO Dean Allen and Wally Trace of Trace Real Estate Services. Jensen-Byrd LLC will sign a 50-year ground lease with WSU to de-

velop the five-acre site, which includes the group's namesake and three other nearby buildings, including one not owned by WSU that the developers have purchased to incorporate into the overall project.

At the center of the development is the re-purposing of the historic Jensen-Byrd building. Modern flexible floor plates and fully updated data, utility and comfort controls will bring the building well into the 21st century, while maintaining the exterior's historical character and showcasing the architecture of the original Jensen-Byrd building.

A new office building will be constructed adjacent to the Jensen-Byrd building at the intersection of Pine and Main. The two buildings combined will offer mixed office space accommodating the needs of the next generation of users. Prospective tenants may include those from the life and health sciences sectors (such as biotech, IT and pharmaceutical), collaborative office users, medical office users, and any company seeking high-quality professional space with great flexibility and visibility in today's marketplace.

When completed, the development will also include restaurants/foodie spaces, a rooftop conference center, retail and a fitness/health center, all surrounded by outdoor space and urban amenities. These features have all been selected in consultation with WSU so as to serve the university's current and future needs

while meeting the developer's vision of the amenities that will make this a thriving focal point on campus—serving students, faculty, researchers and the entire Spokane community—all while creating a stronger connection between The University District and the Central Business District.

“As we launch a medical school and expand our research infrastructure, public/private partnerships such as this will allow us room to grow,” notes WSU Spokane Chancellor and University District board member Lisa Brown. “This project embraces the best urban land use possible, positioning businesses between a top-tier research university and a vibrant downtown.”

“Our adaptive reuse of the Jensen-Byrd is all about honoring the past and celebrating the future,” says Dean Allen, CEO of McKinstry. “This is our home. Our Spokane office sits across the river within sight of the Jensen-Byrd, and our people are part of the phenomenal energy that embodies The University District. We're excited to build something the community will be proud of that meets the needs of The University District, its many partner organizations, and the City of Spokane.”

The development team has held several outreach meetings to engage the community around plans for this important project. Updated plans are being made with this input. For the latest developments, see: jensenbyrd.com. The development expects to open by early 2019. ■

“This project embraces the best urban land use possible, positioning businesses between a top-tier research university and a vibrant downtown.”

SPOKANE TEACHING HEALTH CLINIC

By Kevin Dudley, Washington State University Health Sciences Spokane

On the east edge of the WSU Spokane campus sits the recently opened Spokane Teaching Health Clinic (STHC). Built with \$16.2 million in general revenue bonds approved by WSU's Board of Regents, it features 54 exam rooms, as well as space for Eastern Washington University to bring in its physical and occupational therapy programs.

The 42,000 square foot building had its genesis with the creation of the Spokane Teaching Health Center, a partnership forged in 2013 by WSU Spokane, Providence Health Care and Empire Health Foundation to address the shortage of medical residents in eastern Washington.

Now the STHC is home for medical residents to hone their skills. Initially, 69 medical residents are working at the Clinic: 30 in both family and internal medicine; six in psychiatry; two in rural family

medicine and one in sports medicine. A medical residency—for someone who has completed medical school but needs the required amount of training before practicing medicine independently—can

programs in the region into a team-based clinical environment, which is the future of health care.

With patients of all ages served, the STHC provides a rich learning environment and inter-professional teaching opportunity. Students of all health sciences backgrounds learn alongside each other to better understand how different specialties work. That approach reveals itself in WSU Spokane's Health Care Team Challenge, where students of all health sciences areas are given a "patient situation" and are tasked with developing and explaining their approach and solution.

As the STHC grows and trains more residents and students who serve our community and beyond, it will be rewarding to demonstrate the return on investment to federal leaders who control the funding for medical residencies. It's exciting to see our community working together to increase medical residency slots in our area to create a healthier population. ■



last anywhere from three to seven years, depending on the specialty.

In addition to growing residency slots, the Clinic has a mission of integrating students and faculty from health sciences



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ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE RIVER RESEARCH AND STEWARDSHIP

By Mark Robert Mansfield, PhD, Executive Director, University District

John Charles Olmstead, like his father Fredrick Law Olmstead Sr., who famously designed New York's Central Park, advocated for the integration of the natural environment and the urban landscape. On the younger Olmstead's first visit to Spokane in 1906, he was captivated by the Spokane River and declared that it must be preserved. In the years that followed, Olmstead planned parkways along our river as part of a vision where Spokane was destined to be a great city. The legacy of this vision is sustained by the work of the University District Ecological Alliance (UDEA)—focused on the connections between our community and the river, to achieve the long-term, multi-generational success of our city.

As perhaps the most stunning, historically-rich and well-loved geographical feature in The University District, the Spokane River draws many to its banks. As we travel by foot, bike, board and kayak, we are struck by the possibilities to both enhance and sustain what we see. Riparian habitats could be cleaned up and native flora and fauna preserved. Recreational access could be reimagined and expanded. Educational and community engagement opportunities could proliferate.

Established in 2015, with a mission to work collaboratively with students and community leaders committed to ensure the ecological integrity, biodiversity and resiliency of a healthy Spokane River ecosystem, the UDEA promotes resources and pathways for student and local participation in ecological projects. Like the larger mission of The University District, the strategy relies on applied research and what already-strong stakeholders can achieve by working together. The growing support of The Alliance has included The University District Development Association, Gonzaga University, Eastern Washington University, Washington State University, Friends of the Centennial Trail, Spokane Riverkeeper, The Lands Council, Inland NW Land Conservancy, and the Spokane River Forum, among others.

In recent months, the UDEA has gained momentum, thanks to the commitments, ideas, research and hands on work of students championed by the many river interests. Geneva Mayall, Environmental Studies major at Gonzaga University has taken a key administrative leadership role. Additionally Todd Beyreuther, Washington State University Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture; Professor Emeritus William Kelley, Urban and Regional Planning at Eastern Washington University; Mike Peterson,

Executive Director of The Lands Council; and Loreen McFaul, Executive Director of The Friends of The Centennial Trail, are promoting collaborative efforts to integrate leading research with the mission of leading non-profits, business partners, and officials of the City of Spokane and Spokane County. The work and teaching of Professor Gregory Gordon, PhD, at Gonzaga University, is exemplar of the organization's commitments. For example, Gonzaga students are working on several river-focused initiatives:

Supporting the upcoming Spokane River Clean-Up: Last year, over 600 volunteers removed over 4 tons of debris.

Waste Management: Assessments to benchmark the current clean-up efforts and inform future remediation.

Lake Arthur Wetland Restoration: To make this natural wetland more suitable for common, native and threatened aquatic and riparian species.

Riparian Zone Planting: With support from a grant from the Spokane Conservation District, students are replanting multiple riparian zones along the river corridor to increase breeding and nesting habitats for waterfowl and other species.

Improving Education: Focusing on developing better signage and interpretive art along the river as well as using GIS software to create more informative interactive river maps.

Community Outreach: Engaging nonprofits, residents and community leaders in the Logan, University District and Chief Garry neighborhoods to gather input to engineer better river recreation access points.

Youth Outreach: Developing programs to nurture the next generation of river keepers.

Olmsted's vision holds true today, the river is a key element of Spokane as a great city. Calling to mind the values and ethics promoted by professor, conservationist, environmentalist, and influential author Aldo Leopold, the Alliance is connecting and expanding the local efforts to re-engage the community; to know the river; to interact with the river; to develop anew a love and appreciation for the river; and by doing so, protect and steward the river. ■

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lasis is working on technology to reduce health-care acquired infections

HSSA GRANTS SPARK RESEARCH, NEW INFRASTRUCTURE & INNOVATIVE CARE

By Susan Ashe, Executive Director, Health Sciences and Services Authority and University District Communication Group Member

In a bitter Spokane snowstorm in December 2008, nine hearty souls gathered for the first meeting of the newly formed Health Sciences and Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County. As the first approved and funded entity of its kind in the state, HSSA was established by the Washington legislature to promote bioscience-based economic development in Spokane County, and to advance new therapies and procedures to combat disease and to promote public health.

Since that inclement winter day, HSSA has invested over \$5.2 million in bioscience research and infrastructure funding that has resulted in approximately 160 direct jobs and has attracted an additional \$26 million in external research dollars to the Spokane region. Using conservative multipliers, this translates to 445 indirect jobs and over \$50 million in economic activity that otherwise would not exist.

Using deferred county-wide sales and use tax and bond issue funds, HSSA awards grants to applicants ranging from colleges and universities to commercial and for-profit businesses. Awarded grants focus on access to care, bio/health science research and industry infrastructure support. HSSA's grantee success stories are numerous. A few examples include:

lasis Molecular Sciences and Novion Technologies: With a total of four *Small Business Health Sciences Research Grants* from HSSA, these sister companies are working to advance technologies to minimize healthcare-acquired infection, tissue loss due to chronic wounds and burn trauma, and wound infections associated with surgical procedures. See above image.

Dr. Katherine Tuttle, Providence Medical Research Center: With a \$200,000 *Innovative Translational Research Grant* from HSSA, Dr. Tuttle was able to study end-stage renal care resulting in improved patient care. Dr. Tuttle's grant attracted an additional

\$2.4 million in external grants to the Spokane region.

Dr. Gary Pollack, Dean, WSU College of Pharmacy: Utilizing HSSA's *Human Capital & Infrastructure Grant* mechanism, Dr. Pollack was able to recruit four top researchers to WSU and build-out core lab space that is available for both public and private use.

Partners with Families and Children: This vital local organization that deals with the health needs of children who have been physically or sexually abused received an HSSA *Access to Healthcare Grant*. HSSA funds are supporting services such as children's advocacy, specialized medical examinations, forensic interviews, mental health services, parenting support, among others.

Spokane Prescription Assistance Network: This HSSA *Access to Healthcare Grant* awardee led the now statewide effort that provides free and affordable prescription medications to those who cannot afford to pay.

HSSA also recently added a new grant category that provides consultants to assist small businesses and academic researchers with grant proposal writing expertise to acquire federal Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grants that HSSA might match in the future.

Taken as a whole, these grantees and grants affirm that as an organization, and as a collaborating community, we can do anything. It will take many more years, even decades, to grow a robust life sciences industry in Spokane County; but HSSA intends to contribute to the regional ecosystem for many long winters to come. ■



WSU Collaborations Advance Medical Research

By Kevin Dudley, Washington State University Health Sciences Spokane

As the primary research-intensive university in the region, WSU Health Sciences Spokane is a hotbed for new life sciences discoveries and inventions. The presence of top-notch researchers is a major asset as well.

“By bringing investigators of diverse research topics together in one place, a research university is a catalyst for collaboration, invention and commercialization,” says Hans Van Dongen, a sleep scientist in the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at WSU Spokane.

WSU Health Sciences Spokane has the opportunity and obligation to discover new ideas, and Van Dongen’s new technology for drowsy driver detection exemplifies this notion. It all started ten years ago when Van Dongen’s research team was comparing the work schedules of truck drivers to sleep patterns and driving performance. At the same time, Bryan Vila—a professor in the criminal justice department—was conducting research on fatigue and driving performance in police officers. Together, and in perfect “village” fashion, Vila and Van Dongen secured funding for high-fidelity driving simulators, which they used to collect data for their research projects.

With the simulator data, Van Dongen and his team found signs of fatigue in drivers: lapses of attention, lane deviations and steering wheel instability. They discovered that steering wheel instability could be used to predict drowsiness in drivers. This discovery opened up new possibilities for the development of a drowsy driver detection technology that is a step up from what is currently available.

Van Dongen secured a patent for his technology in 2014. To commercialize the technology, he sought out others within WSU who have expertise in electrical engineering, user interface development and research commercialization. Together with these colleagues at WSU’s campuses in Pullman, Vancouver and Spokane, Van Dongen secured gap funding from the WSU Office of Commercialization and matching funds from WSU Vancouver’s

chancellor to develop a prototype of the drowsy driver detection technology.

With the prototype finished, Van Dongen’s technology is now ready for commercialization. The next invention is already underway, based on a new idea for how to improve work schedules to minimize the risk of accidents due to fatigue. And with Seattle-based Pulsar Informatics, Van Dongen’s laboratory is involved in the development of a new wrist-worn device for measuring sleep, fatigue and health signs in around-the-clock work settings.

“With the prototype finished, Van Dongen’s technology is now ready for commercialization.”

The cross-pollination that occurs naturally in WSU’s multi-disciplinary research environment allows innovators like Van Dongen to thrive. This attracts more research, innovation and commercialization potential to Spokane. This is just one example of WSU’s collaborations in Spokane. Others include:

Ignite Northwest: Ignite is a business accelerator that helps established entrepreneurs evaluate their business and find investors. WSU Spokane is one of its major partners and Ignite uses space on campus.

Spokane Teaching Health Clinic (STHC): The STHC was born out of a partnership among WSU Spokane, Providence Health Care and Empire Health Foundation. The partnership works to increase the number of residency slots for training medical doctors.

Health Sciences and Services Authority (HSSA): HSSA provides funding for core research laboratories on the WSU Spokane campus.

Better Health Together: Better Health Together has space on campus and promotes healthier populations and compliance with the Affordable Care Act.

WSU Office of Commercialization: The Office of Commercialization offers funding to help bridge the gap between research and commercialization.

Pharmacy-Business Partnership: The College of Pharmacy in Spokane and the Carson College of Business in Pullman teamed up last year to help students earn both a doctor of pharmacy degree and a master of business administration degree in four years. ■

Collaborating for Lasting Life Sciences Success

By Francisco R. Velázquez, M.D., S.M., President and CEO, Pathology Associates Medical Laboratories, LLC (PAML) and PAML Ventures, and HSSA Board of Directors

Many U.S. cities aspire to become centers of excellence in the sciences, and anticipate the economic benefits that are typically associated with this endeavor. The reality is that most will not achieve this goal. Not for lack of effort or even resources, but more often because the necessary levels of broad collaboration required for success are lacking. On the other hand, the Spokane community is uniquely positioned to achieve a prominent place in the national life sciences market over the next three to five years, due in great part to the levels of cooperation and collaboration that are the hallmarks of our region and most significant successes to date.

A collaborative community usually has engaged business leaders, cooperative elected officials and great people. The latter cadre being particularly important as this reflects not only greatness of character, but more importantly greatness of purpose. When exceptional people coalesce around a worthwhile goal, incredible things can be achieved. So, as we look out over the next three to five years, what are the local examples of cooperation and collaboration that will put Spokane on the national, if not global, life sciences map?

Let's start with state policy that opens the doors for life sciences progress. A few examples come to mind such as the Health Sciences and Services Authority (HSSA), the first approved county funded HSSA which has invested around \$5.2 million, and returned approximately \$50 million in economic activity. Also, the essential legislative support for the new Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine at Washington State University, Health Sciences Spokane, and funding for the expanded University of Washington School of Medicine's WWAMI program with Gonzaga University as a partner, all increase the critical mass needed for regional research and innovation.

There is no question that we have an engaged business community delivering tangible results. A good example of this being the Greater Spokane Incorporated Vision 2030 Medical Education, Research & Life Sciences Industry Growth Leadership Council. This volunteer group, in addition to significant support from

Avista Corporation, is in great part responsible for the efforts that led to the health sciences campus in downtown Spokane. This group, through four different committees, continues to move forward the process targeted to deliver—per a recent study by Tripp Umbach—the projected \$1.7 billion of economic growth by 2030.



Francisco Velázquez
MD

There are many other cooperative initiatives laying the groundwork for continued life sciences success in Spokane. These include targeted activities such as Ignite Northwest, the public-private partnership of new buildings and structures to house research and development; the new multidisciplinary Spokane Teaching Health Clinic, a partnership between three local institutions; and City-supported infrastructure improvements in The University District (such as the future University District Gateway Bridge) that will facilitate growth in and access to critical health and life sciences enterprises.

Lastly, it is important to highlight some examples of the local efforts that are crucial to building a sustainable and competitive life sciences ecosystem. Growing small companies like Iasis Molecular Sciences, a pioneer in biomaterials targeted to prevent infectious processes, is key. Facilitating university-industry partnerships to foster breakthrough research such as the collaboration between UW, WSU and Providence Health & Services to address chronic kidney disease, is vital. Supporting mentoring and internship programs around industry-based commercialization projects that provide budding scientist students an opportunity to partner with an already existing company, are a must. And last but not least, the many efforts to fund proof of concept projects, startup companies, and physical facilities to house these evolving organizations, are paramount.

All of these are a clear example of the exceptional people that live and work in this great community and contribute so much to its institutions, businesses and local government. It's their collaborative spirit that will make Spokane an inspirational, not just aspirational, life sciences center of excellence. ■

UW, GONZAGA & ITHS PLACE “STAKE IN THE GROUND” FOR INLAND NW RESEARCH

By Kim Blakeley, UW Medicine

This past February, UW and Gonzaga University signed an agreement to form the Regional Health Partnership to expand medical education and research in Spokane, and to leverage long-standing partnerships with other institutions in the area such as Providence Medical Research Center and others.

The UW School of Medicine is charged with both teaching and generating knowledge. To this end, the UW and Gonzaga “put a research stake in the ground” with their partnership agreement, and the UW School of Medicine made a significant commitment to the research enterprise by securing a Spokane-based co-principal investigator, Katherine Tuttle, MD, FASN, FACP, for its Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS).



Katherine Tuttle
MD

Dr. Tuttle is executive director for research at Providence Medical Research Center/Providence Health Care in Spokane, and faculty in the Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology, at the University of Washington. In her capacity as ITHS co-principal investigator, she works closely with principal investigator Dr. Mary L. “Nora” Disis of UW, as well as co-principal investigators Dr. Bonnie Ramsey of Seattle Children's and Dr. Paul Martin of Fred Hutch, to lead ITHS efforts to change how biomedical research and training are performed.

ITHS—funded by a Clinical and Translational Science Award from the National Institutes of Health—is a partnership between the UW, Fred Hutch, and Seattle Children's Hospital. The Institute promotes the acceleration of science to clinical practice to benefit patients and communities throughout the UW's WWAMI region (an

acronym for the states served by the UW School of Medicine: Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho).

ITHS has many multi-disciplinary research partnerships, projects and studies underway in eastern Washington and northern Idaho to improve the health and well-being of patients, such as testing safe approaches for opioid prescribing in rural primary care clinics, advance care planning, and cardiovascular disease prevention.

“ITHS is committed to supporting successful clinical and translational research throughout our region,” says Dr. Tuttle. “We believe that many exciting programs can be built or grown through Spokane’s existing research infrastructure. Providence Health Care in Spokane has had an active research program for decades, including hosting sabbatical scientists from Gonzaga. By uniting researchers from Providence and Gonzaga with ITHS resources at the UW, all three organizations have the opportunity to learn from each other and reap results more quickly.”

GONZAGA PARTNERSHIPS ENRICH LIFE SCIENCES ECOSYSTEM

By Mary Joan Hahn, Gonzaga University and University District Communication Group Member

At Gonzaga University (GU), expert teaching, meaningful research and creative engagement with real-world problems provide the core foundation for ongoing impact in the regional life sciences ecosystem. Key to this work are the many partnerships GU has developed with Spokane’s thriving healthcare leaders, educational colleagues, business associates and civic organizations. The community benefits from GU’s work in this area, not only through health impacts, but via increased prosperity propelled by expansion of this sector.

Gonzaga’s new Regional Health Partnership with the UW School of Medicine is a dynamic example. The same spirit of collaboration—this time with Providence Health Care—led to the translation of a long-standing masters in nurse anesthesia done in collaboration with Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center into a new doctorate in nurse anesthesia practice.

“This program reinforces our joint commitment to healthcare excellence,” says Brenda Stevenson Marshall, dean of the Gonzaga School of Nursing and Human Physiology, “and brings a level of rigor and expertise rarely found in other academic institutions.” Gonzaga’s and Providence Sacred Heart’s partnership stretches back decades.

Expert faculty are key to the success of these educational experiences. Deborah Smith in the School of Nursing and Human Physiology, who earned the 2015 Nurse Practitioner State Award for Excellence, and Vesta Coufal who received the 2016 Award for Distinguished College or University Mathematics Teaching from the Pacific Northwest Region, are two of many worthy examples of Gonzaga’s outstanding faculty.

Gonzaga’s partnerships with a variety of companies and organizations in health-care settings—medical centers and assisted living residences, public health-focused community-based organizations such as schools and non-profits—are key to providing essential clinical experiences, internships and practicums for students. They also lay the foundation for valuable service-learning experiences and rich mentorships where local experts guide young professionals into rewarding careers.

Funded research projects—like the Science Education Alliance’s National Genomics Research Initiative supported by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute—bring the excitement of scientific discovery to GU labs and illuminate future careers. Hundreds of Gonzaga biology students have been involved in discovering and publishing information on new viruses that infect and grow in bacteria. The project involves sequencing the organisms’ DNA and building a public genome database for future use by researchers.

Through partnerships with local industries, students tackle real-world challenges and support growing companies. Biology professor Bill Ettinger and his students have been working with local company Hyprotek, exploring the effectiveness of a commercial product developed to disinfect and protect catheter ports, a common source of infection in hospitals.

This type of collaboration and real-world research prepares students for successful careers and supports the Inland Northwest’s economic development priority to harness the potential of the life sciences by making an impact on health and medical practices far beyond our region.



Gonzaga President Thayne McCulloh and UW President Ana Mari Cauce at the Regional Health Partnership announcement.

LIFE SCIENCE WASHINGTON: SUPPORTING SPOKANE INNOVATION

By Yesenia Green, PhD, Associate Director, Capital Formation & Partnerships, Life Science Washington

Eastern Washington has long played a critical role in Washington state life sciences, especially in helping to foster a well-educated workforce for the sector. It is also home to a number of established companies and startups—from Pathology Associates Medical Laboratories, LLC, to Phytelligence and Paw Print Genetics.

Spokane's University District is set to raise the bar even higher as it brings together the state's educational institutions, entrepreneurs and health-care leaders to develop new, more effective ways to deliver care across the state.

"The University District has the right resources and collective energy to drive forward a strong culture of innovation," says Leslie M. Alexandre, DrPH, president and CEO of Life Science Washington. "We are excited to help grow and foster this spirit of innovation through our work at Life Science Washington."

Life Science Washington (LSW), the state's life science trade association, is already alongside entrepreneurs and innovators across eastern Washington, delivering on-the-ground resources such as mentoring and business development support, and helping identify possible funding for up-and-coming companies.

LSW brings its WIN Mentoring Program and nonprofit angel network WINGS to the area to help bridge the gap between discovery and commercialization. Additionally, a partnership with LSW and Ignite Northwest, established in 2015, laid the foundation for much-needed training and support for aspiring entrepreneurs and early-stage startups. Several Spokane companies have benefitted from these unique programs including:

Co-Optical: Four WSU students launched the startup to develop a non-invasive blood glucose measurement device.

H-Source: A private marketplace for hospitals and surgery centers to partner to buy and sell medical products and equipment and reduce waste.

InstantMD: Founded by two registered nurses, InstantMD offers workplace telemedicine, a unique and affordable solution to a critical problem in Washington state.

Novion Technologies: The company is focused on minimizing health care-acquired infections with its antimicrobial agent technologies.

A quantum leap in LSW's potential impact across the state occurred earlier this year, when LSW received a \$1.8 million grant from the state's Life Sciences Discovery Fund (LSDF) to help move more innovations from "concept" to "market." The LSDF grant allows LSW to scale its programs and deliver even more support to emerging companies in eastern Washington. For example, LSW staff is creating a commercialization "playbook" to train startup entrepreneurs at the beginning of their commercialization journey, and is developing an online marketplace for resources and networking.

"We are honored to come alongside targeted initiatives like the Spokane University District that advance life sciences research and commercialization," says Dr. Alexandre. "Life Science Washington is committed to helping organizations across the state make their visions a reality by providing access to the best possible resources and support." ■

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How a great city moves.



ARTS IN THE UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

By Laura Becker, Executive Director, SpknArts

Since I relocated to Spokane in 2014, I call The University District “home”. This urban hamlet is perfectly downtown adjacent, yet close to the wildness of the Spokane River. As an artist and arts lover, I gravitate to the flourishing cultural scene, but also love that the area’s vibe leaves inspired room for future creative possibilities.

There are several artistic gems in the neighborhood but my two favorites are on the Washington State University Health Sciences Spokane campus. *Light Reading*, by Peter Reiquam, is an outdoor reading room (lightheartedly sited next to the library), complete with bronze bookcases and granite armchairs. *Cascade*, by Kana Tanaka, is a shimmering cascade of glass flora and fauna and spherical shapes referencing local river waterfalls. Though quite different, I love that these two works undeniably connect to their sites and offer a moment of ease and contemplation, a way to slow down the pace of a busy academic life.

Not far off is *Dance of the Redband* by local artist Ken Spiering. Acting as an unofficial welcome to the City of Spokane, the kinetic steel sculpture celebrates the native and endangered Redband trout. Funded by the City of Spokane and the Public Facilities District, this piece was created as part of a capital project to improve the Division Street Triangle. Intended as a companion piece to artwork commissioned for the Spokane Convention Center in the 1990’s, it creates a strong visual connection between two neighborhoods, and reinforces the spirit of connectivity and collaboration that’s a hallmark of The University District.

Looking to the future, the City plans to include art in the landing areas of The University District Gateway Bridge plazas. Depicted in the illustration above are one of the proposed works by artist team Shani Marchant and the late Lea Anne Lake. Titled *Soaring*

and *Rooted*, the work consists of two mirror-polished stainless steel conical sculptures—one upright, one inverted—representing two versions of structural balance. They will aid in wayfinding and, due to their reflectivity, will mirror a changing landscape back to the viewer.

Just across the river, one can enjoy the performing arts at Gonzaga University, which is currently planning for the new Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center, a state-of-the-art 750-seat performing arts venue that will house outstanding student theatre productions, music and multidisciplinary dance performances. While on campus, you can also peruse the fine arts collection at the Jundt Art Museum and perhaps even bump into the 2016 Washington State Poet Laureate and Gonzaga English Professor Tod Marshall.




I often discover the most interesting things in the margins and intersections of two neighborhoods. The University District is no exception. “College Town”, the block of Main Street between Division and Browne Streets, is chock full of art and character. Housed in this block are crowd-pleasing and community-minded projects such as Saranac Commons, home to many small creative businesses and organizations. Saranac Art Projects, a cooperative contemporary art space, cut its teeth here in the infancy of this area’s redevelopment. Soon, the block will be part of an infrastructure makeover, the first of its kind in the United States, where a four-lane, one-way road is transformed into a festival-type street with center angled parking and a mid-block crosswalk; paving the way to transform this block into one of the most desirable places to work and play in Spokane.

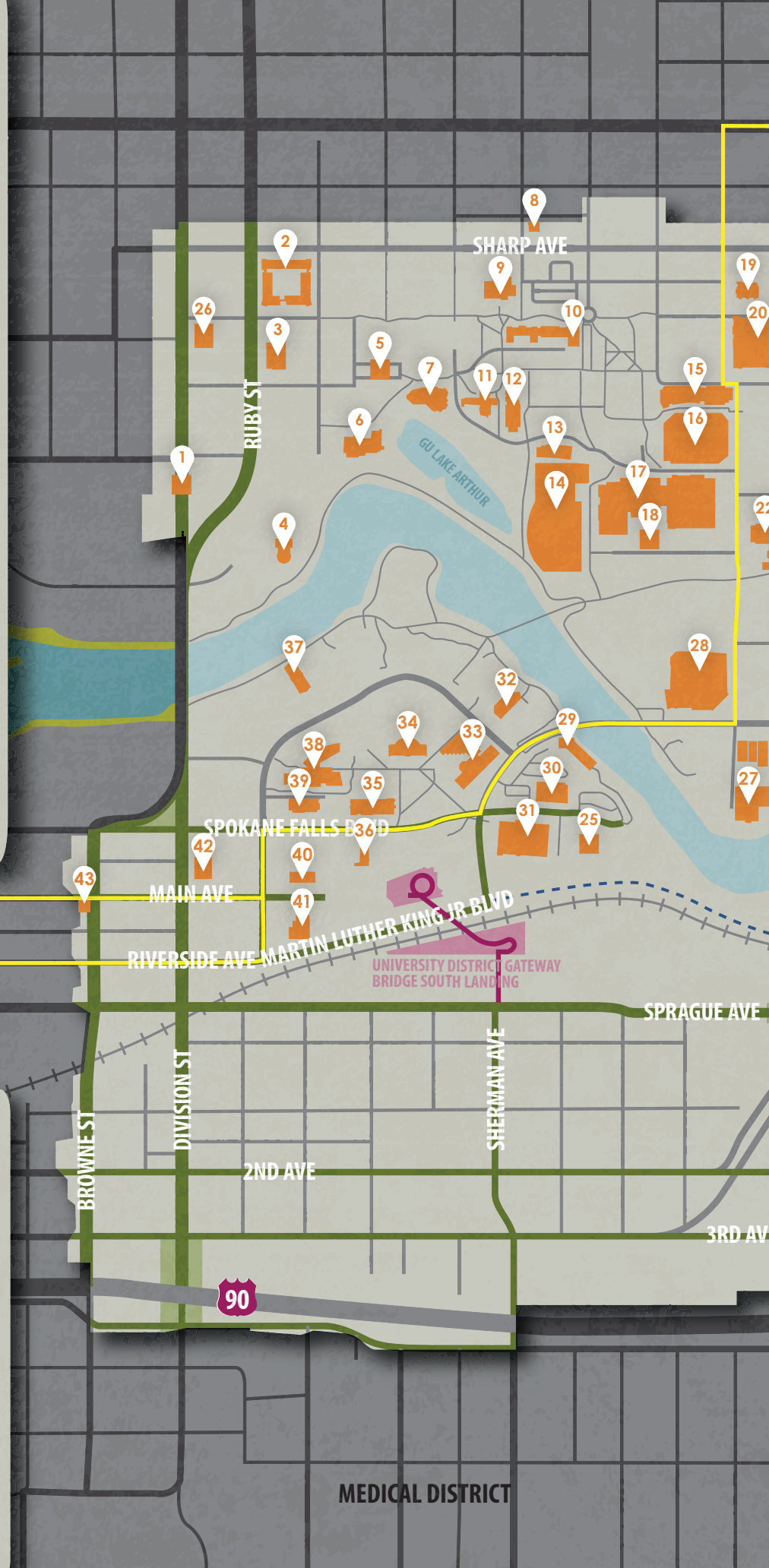
“Home improvement” is happening every day in The University District—my neighborhood oasis where creativity, innovation, connectedness, and inquiry thrive. I can’t wait to see and be a part of what the next ten years bring. ■

Points of Interest

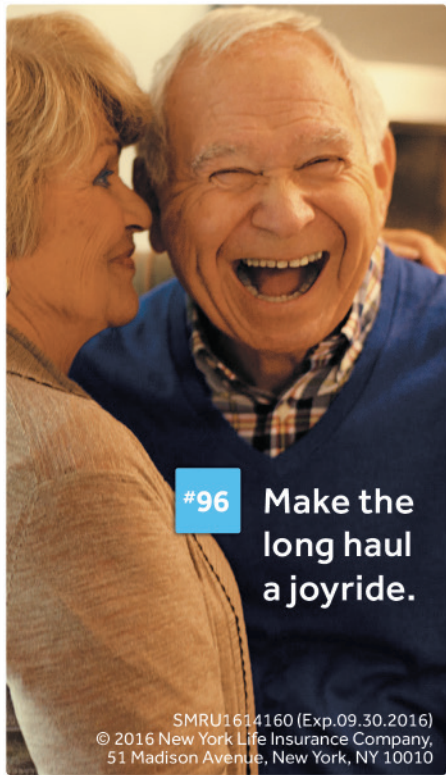
1. 940 North
2. Gonzaga University (GU) Kennedy Apartments
3. GU Tilford Center
4. GU/UW School of Medicine Regional Health Partnership
5. GU Future Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center
6. GU Jundt Art Museum
7. GU Jepson Center
8. GU Huetter Mansion
9. GU Cataldo Hall
10. GU Magnuson Theater
11. GU Future Jesuit House
12. GU Hughes Hall
13. GU PACCAR (Engineering Building)
14. GU Soccer Stadium
15. GU Hemmingson Center
16. GU Mulligan Field
17. GU Martin Centre & McCarthy Athletic Center
18. GU Future Center for Athletic Achievement
19. GU Twohy Hall
20. GU Boone Ave Retail Center (BARC)
21. The Matilda Building
22. GU Coughlin Hall
23. GU Stevens Center (tennis & golf)
24. Iron Bridge
25. Spokane Teaching Health Clinic
26. Ruby Suites
27. McKinstry SIERR and McKinstry Innovation Center (MIC), McKinstry Shops and The Toolbox at MIC
28. GU Patterson Baseball Complex
29. Whitworth University

30. Schade Tower
31. Washington State University (WSU) South Campus Facility
32. WSU Health Education Research Building
33. Eastern Washington University (EWU) Center
34. WSU Academic Center
35. WSU Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences Building
36. WSU Veterinary Specialty Teaching Clinic
37. Community Colleges of Spokane
38. Health Sciences Building EWU/WSU/UW
39. WSU Nursing Building
40. Jensen-Byrd Development
41. WSU University Center for Innovation/Ignite NW Building
42. The Globe Building
43. University of Washington (UW)

-  STA Central City Line
-  Martin Luther King Jr Way Construction
-  The University District Gateway Bridge



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TRANSIT CONNECTIONS IN THE UNIVERSITY DISTRICT

By Brandon Rapez-Betty, Spokane Transit Authority and University District Communication Group Member

Access to public transportation is essential to a successful mixed-use environment in The University District where people live, learn, work and play. Currently, Spokane Transit Authority (STA) has eight bus routes that connect to the area, and is continually finding ways to improve service between The University District and other important destinations in the region.

Connecting Washington

Last summer, Governor Jay Inslee signed into law Connecting Washington, the largest transportation package in Washington's history. This \$16.1 billion transportation revenue and spending package will drastically improve transportation modes throughout the state. Thanks to the exceptional efforts of regional stakeholders and elected officials like Senator Andy Billig, Senator Michael Baumgartner and Representative Marcus Riccelli, The University District will benefit from an infusion of transportation capital that will enable smart urban development, and a pedestrian-friendly atmosphere more conducive to street-level commerce.

Central City Line

The Connecting Washington package includes \$15 million to help fund the Central City Line (CCL), a six-mile, all electric bus rapid transit route connecting Browne's Addition, Downtown Spokane, The University District and the Community Colleges of Spokane. Matching capital funding is anticipated from the Federal Transit Administration. Over the past decade, STA has worked with many stakeholders—The University District, City of Spokane, Downtown Spokane Partnership, Greater Spokane Incorporated, Avista, local universities and colleges, neighborhood groups, Visit Spokane, and others—to develop a detailed plan for the new route that is estimated to provide nearly a million rides a year. As a complement to regular bus service, the CCL will offer earlier morning and later night service, frequent trips, con-



Celebrants at the Connecting Washington event, from left: Kim Pearman-Gillman, McKinstry; Rep Marcus Riccelli; Chancellor Lisa Brown, WSU Health Sciences Spokane; Ben Stuckart, Spokane City Council President; Sen Andy Billig; and Washington Governor Jay Inslee.

venient pre-board ticketing at permanent and distinctly branded stations (allowing for faster boarding), and overall reduced travel time. That's good news for riders as well as for the local economy. The CCL is projected to directly increase land and improvement values by about \$175 million over 20 years. It will increase foot traffic, and it will help with things like wayfinding, parking and traffic congestion. Having a transit system with these elements is critical to a competitive and growing economy—especially to appeal to a millennial workforce, retiring boomers and visitors to the downtown core. The CCL will have similar economic development benefits to a streetcar or light rail system, but at a significantly lower cost and with more flexibility to adapt to local events, changing weather and traffic obstructions.

As part of ongoing planning for the CCL, the City of Spokane and STA developed a Strategic Overlay Plan to identify transit-supported economic development opportunities and land use policy changes. The City and STA held three public workshops during the first quarter of 2016 to give stakeholders and the public an opportunity to share their priorities and weigh in on these options. Set to complete in 2021, the CCL is scaled to meet the needs of our regional population, which is projected to

grow by over 100,000 by 2040.

The University District Gateway Bridge

Additionally, Connecting Washington allocates \$8.8 million—over half of the bridge's cost—to The University District Gateway Bridge, which allows cyclists, walkers and joggers to cross over the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) railway tracks. The bridge will be an important connection point between the CCL and STA's medical shuttle service. Set to be completed in 2018, the bridge will activate the corridor between the south-side hospital complex and the six north-side higher education institutions:

Community Colleges of Spokane, Eastern Washington University, Gonzaga University, UW, WSU, and Whitworth University.

Medical Shuttle Service

To supplement the connection between the CCL and The University District Gateway Bridge, STA plans to develop a medical shuttle service. Located at the bridge's south landing, the medical shuttle will transport students, staff and patients from The University District's health sciences programs to the medical and hospital district on the lower South Hill. Individuals can also travel to the medical shuttle service via the CCL, which will have a University District station near the bridge's north landing on Spokane Falls Boulevard. Commuters on Sprague Avenue or I-90 inbound to Spokane for either the health sciences campus or the medical district will no longer need to go downtown to make their connections.

Looking to the Future

The projects outlined here are just some of the transit improvements planned for our region. As The University District grows, STA will continue to find innovative ways to meet the region's transportation needs—connecting people to public services, getting workers to jobs, and partnering to advance regional economic development. ■

URBAN MOBILITY: A CONVERSATION WITH JON SNYDER

Policy Advisor, The Office of the Governor and Spokane City Council Member 2009-2016

What does a new vision for urban mobility in The University District look like to you?

When citizens who are blind or in wheelchairs can easily navigate The University District you know it offers good mobility for everyone. Good mobility is like a blood circulatory system: abundant route options everywhere. We can't be satisfied with bike paths or sidewalks on just one side of the river or just one side of the viaduct. Biking, walking and transit should have the same sort of options that vehicles have. And it's not just good connections, those routes should be pleasant to take. That means good street-level storefronts, public spaces, and trees. The University District, at its core, is about promoting the health of our region through study and commerce. That value should be reflected in all aspects of its design.

What do you believe is the single most important factor in accelerating people-first mobility options in The University District?

We need to stop hiding the cost of parking and moving vehicles. The enormous amount of land used for surface parking and street right-of-way could be earning us much more in tax receipts and community benefit if we build something on those parking lots and offer up more of our streets to shared uses. Streets and parking lots are expensive to maintain and have an opportunity cost when they are over built because they chew up land that could be used for other things. We don't want people to just go *through* The University District we also want them to

go *to* The University District. If we do that the whole neighborhood (and we should consider it a neighborhood) would be more people-first.

How can The University bring together disparate stakeholders to focus on open space and pedestrian friendly environments?

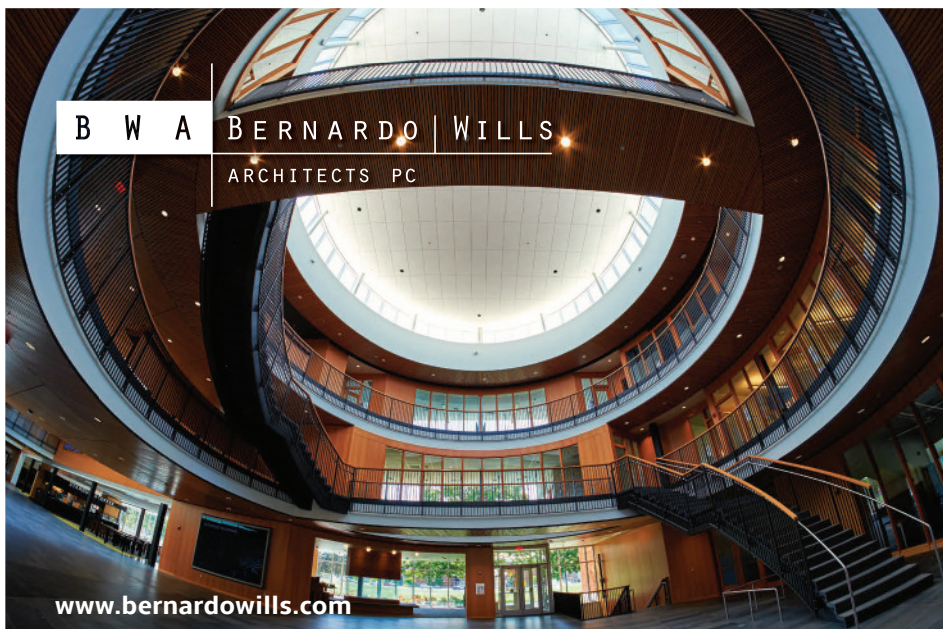
You can do this if you stay true to a greater vision for The University District and if you demonstrate how a variety of stakeholders benefit. Local contractors will benefit from the construction. Rural communities will benefit from new academic healthcare partnerships. Citizens in East Central will benefit from a new clinic. Entrepreneurs will benefit from the proximity to high-level research. County government will benefit from increased land values surrounding The University District. The hardest part has really already been done. We just need to come together with a shared vision and see things through, or the economic opportunities we are reaching for will end up in other cities.



Jon Snyder

Why should a person who never walks, bikes or takes the bus support multi-modal streets?

Because the gas tax doesn't go very far in repairing streets. Streets are heavily subsidized by property tax, utility tax, and sales tax. A great strategy for reducing congestion and reducing repair costs is to encourage more biking walking and transit use. That's a great benefit to you even if you never leave your car. ●



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PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AN INCENTIVE TO MILLENNIALS

By John Robert Smith, Chairman, Transportation for America



I had the privilege to visit Spokane and saw first-hand the incredible potential of this mid-sized city with a wealth of historic structures, a connective street grid and capable citizenry. Spokane is at a decision point that will affect its ability to live up to that potential for years to come. In my mind, the critical questions are: Is Spokane the kind of place where young, mobile, talented workers want to stay after they graduate? Will the Lilac City be able to compete with other mid-sized cities in the Pacific Northwest and beyond to attract a younger workforce and prosper for decades to come?

Of all college-educated 25- to 34-year-olds, roughly two-thirds looked for a job only after they chose the city where they wanted to live, according to census data. The surprising attributes sought by young job-seekers and corporate workforce developers are attractive walkable environments with good public transit.

I heard a story out of Indianapolis recently (a city facing similar talent retention challenges as Spokane). A younger resident testified in the statehouse about efforts to build a new system of bus rapid transit lines across the region. Lawmakers were told that, “selling a city without transit to millennials is like selling a phone without a camera.”

In “Core Values,” a study my organization conducted on the movement of companies across the country relocating to downtowns, businesses reported that current and potential employees want neighborhoods with restaurants, cafes, cultural institutions, entertainment, and nightlife as well as easy access by public transportation.

As our nation’s economy has slowly recovered from the recession, the areas around bus rapid transit stations from Las Vegas to Cleveland have seen faster middle and upper-wage job growth compared with other parts of those regions. In Eugene, Oregon, a well-designed bus rapid transit (BRT) line has brought strong economic benefits. In the three years after Eugene’s EMX BRT line opened, 42 percent of new jobs were located within a quarter-mile of the new BRT stations. A recent study showed a 4 to 1 return on investment of Eugene’s bus rapid transit line.

The possibility of similar success for Spokane will be up to voters this November. If voters approve this ballot measure, it will then be up to local leaders, planners and developers to help Spokane and The University District take full advantage of the Central City Line and live up to its full potential. ■



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MAKING A MAGNET

Roger Woodworth, Consultant and Past Vice President, Avista Development

A nail. Some wire. A battery.

We all remember this early science project and marveled that each additional wrap of the wire amplified the result. We learned that something powerful can be made by assembling different parts in a thoughtful way, with the help of others and with a plan.

Today, we are building another magnet, The University District, which is poised to attract a new level of prosperity to the Inland Northwest region.

Starting with an Idea

The notion of an educational campus near downtown Spokane that would attract new development, research, commercial activity and talent had been around for many years; but it was during an economic downturn about 15 years ago that the idea gained traction. One or two wraps around the nail led to more until a plan to guide the effort began in earnest and today's vision for The University District was born.

Wrapping the Magnet

Since that time, an estimated \$740 million has been invested in various projects within The University District, most in support of higher education. Certainly it's our collective good fortune that each of the six higher education institutions in the district provide exceptional leadership, drawing the attention and support of others interested in education, research, and commercialization of great ideas, particularly those with a focus on the business of health. Beyond investments and capable stewardship, additional force multipliers in The University District include:

Proximity to Spokane's medical district, headquarters for two major hospital systems: Providence and Rockwood Health Systems, a part of Community Health Systems (CHS).

A diverse mix of complementary health-related businesses nearby such as PAML, Inland Northwest Health Services (INHS), Inland Imaging, Nuvodia, Maplewood Software, Healthcare Resources Group, Medication Review and H-Source, to name a few.

Reliable, competitively-priced infrastructure for power, water, natural gas, and water and waste management. The district also boasts access to a high capacity gigapop fiber network and an expanding public transit system.

Comprehensive entrepreneurial support via Greater Spokane Inc.'s Start-up Spokane initiatives, Ingite Northwest's business accelerator services, the EDA funded wet lab and Tech Growth revolving loan fund, McKinstry's Innovation Center, the new ToolBox makers' space, and the Avista Center for Entrepreneurship at Spokane Community College.

An Innovation Partnership Zone designation by the Department of Commerce making the district qualified for tax increment financing.

The redevelopment of the Jensen-Byrd property, establishing a smart city experimental zone, and planning for a "health industries business park".

The University District Development Association, is the embodiment of collegiality and collaboration among stakeholders, all working together to achieve mutual goals.

Clearly, much is in motion to build a commercially compelling and prosperous greater Spokane region. We are excited that The University District represents several wraps around the nail so our city can be more, sooner, for all who live, work, invest, visit and play here. ●

"Something powerful can be made by assembling different parts in a thoughtful way, with the help of others and with a plan."



DESIGNING CITIES FOR THE FUTURE

By Kim Zentz, Co-Director, Smart City Initiative, Washington State University and University District Board Member

Global trends are pointing to rapid urbanization, economic power shifts, more personalized health care, greater resource stewardship, increasing entrepreneurship, and technology breakthroughs. These vectors of change converge where people live—in communities of every scale. As more people move to cities they expect safe, clean neighborhoods, access to reliable, affordable services, convenient mobility, and a healthy economy. Clearly we want all of these attributes for Spokane and Spokane's University District, but what can Spokane demonstrate for other cities? The answer is: a lot. By carefully applying available technology while informing decisions with available data, we can improve the efficiency and effectiveness with which communities—including Spokane—will plan for the future.

Collaborating for our Future

For a little over two years, an informal group including Avista, Iron, the City of Spokane, Washington State University, McKinstry and the University District Development Association have been imagining how Spokane's University District can serve as a proving ground for how cities address the shifting reality they face against these global trends. Recently, these partners signed a memorandum of understanding which brings a bit more formality to their vision and which will establish an organization focused on realizing these goals in The University District.

The result will be to establish The University District as a living laboratory to design cities for the future. The plan is to harness data to gain insights, empower people and solve urban challenges in new ways. The outcomes will enable healthier citizens, safer neighborhoods, smarter infrastructure, a more sustainable environment and a stronger economy. The broad goals of the organization are to improve the economy, environment and well-being of our community; and to become a leader in enabling the design of cities of the future by creating a living laboratory for testing scalable and replicable smart city solutions.

Cities across the globe are working to use technology in new ways to help improve services and infrastructure for citizens and to help

address urban challenges like energy and water usage, traffic and waste, as well as improving citizen engagement. By bringing together leaders in utility infrastructure, smart metering and communications, higher education, energy efficiency, population health, and urban planning to create a smart city solutions proving ground in the heart of Spokane, we will help establish The University District as an innovator in the effort to improve the quality of urban life. The partners have applied for several grants and other opportunities to catalyze initial efforts. And we're getting noticed.

National Spotlight on Spokane

In December 2015, Spokane's effort was selected by Envision America to be one of the first ten cities in the country to participate in a yearlong program to catalyze smart city planning and project implementation. This designation recognizes Spokane as having the ingredients necessary to develop smart city technologies and strategies to tackle the challenges faced by cities around the world. Envision America is a national nonprofit organization focused on challenging America's cities to become smarter by accelerating deployment of innovative technologies that tackle energy, water, waste and air challenges.

Spokane's smart city initiative, now known as Urbanova, is based in the fixed footprint of The University District. Urbanova emphasizes the critical interactions between health, water, energy, food and the built environment in a way that no other city is yet positioned to realize. Focusing the scope on the District's 770 acre boundaries, while leveraging the health sciences concentration of the campuses and the health-care core of the regional economy, creates a manageable, community-scale living laboratory that has the ability to enhance resident well-being. Further, with just under half of the District's total acreage fully developed, there is tremendous opportunity for developers, entrepreneurs, researchers, community partners and corporate partners to prototype applications, solutions, and business models that can be replicated elsewhere. The potential possibilities are exciting! Learn more at www.urbanova.org.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN SPOKANE

By Steve Trabun, Regional Business Manager, Avista Corp. and University District Board Vice Chair

Earlier this year, Spokane was fortunate to host Steve Case, Founder of America Online. In addition to his journey with AOL, Steve talked about how innovation and entrepreneurship are no longer confined to places like Silicon Valley, but are flourishing in cities across the United States. His recommendations for our region are to create a community of connectedness and to focus on two or three areas that play to our strengths.

At every point of the compass in our city, especially in The University District, you will see the entrepreneurial ecosystem booming. All of the critical elements to fuel an innovation economy exist here, including eight regional colleges and universities, access to capital, as well as a high growth companies who collectively employ thousands across technology, robotics, health and life sciences, advanced manufacturing and more. Our region has not only analyzed our strengths but also addressed any gaps in resources and services that could impede the growth of new and existing businesses.

Entrepreneurship is just one economic development driver in our region. Equally important is retaining a greater percentage of the newly educated workforce, many of whom previously relocated to larger cities for higher paying jobs. Regardless of whether graduates relocate elsewhere, our region remains focused on creating high growth companies across a multitude of industry sectors, which provide high wage jobs. A critical mass of companies and jobs will enable us to attract and keep top talent in our city.

Startup Spokane, a program of Greater Spokane Inc., is a gateway for our entrepreneurial community, providing a variety of services and resources for new business owners and startup teams including:

Spaces for people to work, meet and share experiences such as co-working spaces, commercial kitchens, maker spaces, and research labs.

Education across a multitude of disciplines, with entrepreneurship being taught as an interdisciplinary approach.

Access to health and life sciences research led by our universities, public and private sector organizations.

Incubators and accelerators for startups such as Ignite Northwest's program for high growth technology, health and life sciences; Toolbox for product-based manufacturing startups; and McKinstry for second stage technology companies.

Extensive network of mentors, advisors and industry specific experts providing assistance to startups facilitated by Startup Spokane.

Access to capital via traditional/non-traditional financing options such as angel and seed investments, revolving loan funds, and venture capital.

Service providers with an affinity for early-stage entities that provide countless hours of subject matter expertise and advice to emerging and growing companies.

Regular networking and educational events to maintain a strong sense of connectedness and collaboration.

The University District, at the heart of Spokane's research and entrepreneurial ecosystem, provides the perfect canvas for emerging high growth companies in technology, robotics, and life and health sciences. Intentional efforts to create, expand and recruit high growth companies to The University District will, in turn, attract housing, retail, hospitality and other service-based companies who will collectively enhance the work, live, learn and play environment in The University District. ●

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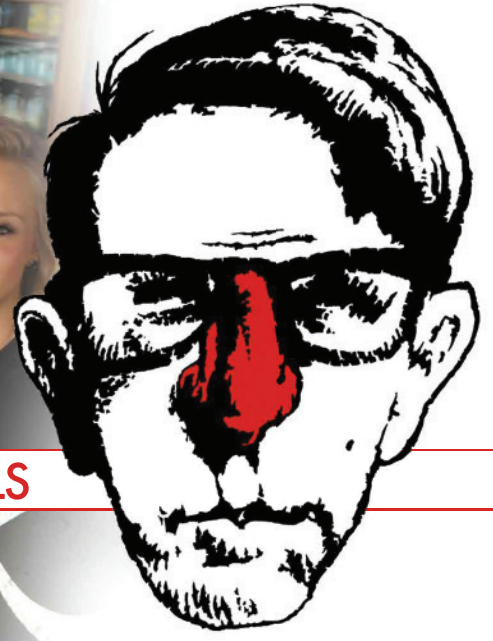
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UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS FOR **WSU HEALTH SCIENCES SPOKANE**

By Lisa Brown, Chancellor, Washington State University Health Sciences Spokane and University District Board Member

WSU Spokane was designated the university's health sciences campus in 2010. But even before then, the health sciences had a large presence on campus—and that presence has grown in recent years, helping to transform Spokane's University District into a hub of academic activity and an economic engine for the Inland Northwest for years to come.

The Health Sciences Building was opened on campus in 2002 and faculty from pharmacy and other programs were moved there from an office downtown. Medical students from the WWAMI program started on campus in 2008, and in 2009, the College of Nursing moved into the newly constructed Nursing Building. In 2013, the College of Pharmacy consolidated its Pullman operations to Spokane under the leadership of Dean Gary Pollack, and the College of Medicine was formed in 2014. At the end of 2013, the new Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences Building (see building at left above) opened and now three of WSU's 11 colleges are headquartered in Spokane.

In 2015, the Washington State Legislature gave the university approval and initial funding to launch a medical school and, in a tribute to the individual who drove that initiative, the medical college was renamed the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine. Most recently, in 2016, WSU Spokane joined with Providence Health Care and Empire Health Foundation to open the Spokane Teaching Health Clinic on campus.

Clearly, the gains in health sciences education over the years are immense. But the advances in WSU health sciences research are equally admirable. In fiscal year 2013, WSU Spokane received \$13.6 million in research grants and contract awards. For fiscal

year 2016, WSU Spokane was awarded \$29.1 million in external grant and contract awards, more than double the amount just three years prior.

Research on campus aims to solve the world's health challenges. The College of Pharmacy is looking at ways to fight Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, ALS, prostate cancer and more. The College of Nursing—which welcomed new Dean Joyce Griffin-Sobel in April 2016—tackles premature infant pain measurement, drug addictions, home health care safety and more. The College of Medicine—led by founding Dean John Tomkowiak—has world renowned sleep researchers studying the risks of sleep loss and how REM sleep impacts the development of young brains.

Turning research into commercial products and services is the next step in the university's economic development role. Michael Ebinger, who manages the University Center for Innovation on campus, helps researchers connect with local entrepreneurs to transform novel ideas and discoveries into new or expanded businesses. The center provides technical and applied research assistance and facilities access to innovators both on and off campus so they can gather additional data, test proof of concept ideas and advance prototypes. Glenn Prestwich, a visiting professor and expert in commercialization of university scholarship, also is helping researchers who want to turn their work into viable businesses.

Looking ahead, the development of The University District Gateway Bridge, which will link the WSU campus with the city's extensive hospital complex to the south, promises that yet more opportunities for academic success are on the horizon. ●



UW MEDICAL STUDENTS ENJOY NEW HOME AT GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

By Ana Marie Cauce, President, University of Washington (UW)

With every new academic year, there is a familiar thrill as we anticipate the arrival of our students. Their energy and enthusiasm are contagious. As they fill classrooms and flood the campus commons, quads and hallways, the sense of potential and possibility infuses the UW—and Gonzaga University. That is why I'm very excited that this fall, the UW and Gonzaga together will welcome the largest-ever class of UW medical students in Spokane.

In February, our two universities formalized an agreement to enhance and expand medical education and research in Spokane—building on the UW's decades-long history in eastern Washington—through the formation of the University of Washington/Gonzaga University Regional Health Partnership.

For 25 years the UW School of Medicine has maintained the No. 1 ranking in the nation in family medicine and rural medicine training, and for 22 out of 23 years has earned the No. 1 ranking in primary care training in *U.S. News & World Report's* lists of the nation's top graduate and professional-school programs in the country. Gonzaga has long been known for its excellence in teaching undergraduate and graduate students for the health professions, engaging in applied scientific research and a long-term commitment to service for a just and humane world.

Thanks to this new collaboration, a record-breaking 60 medical students arrived on the Gonzaga campus in August. We were delighted by the strong interest among UW applicants to attend medical school in Spokane, many of whom were motivated by a sense of service to the region. As has been the case historically,

our students come from diverse backgrounds and are looking for ways to combine a first-rate medical education with opportunities to give back.

Service learning plays a large and crucial part in the education they will receive through the UW/Gonzaga partnership.

Last year, for example, two of our first-year Spokane medical students started "Med for Ed" to engage first- and second-year medical students in community service projects. Projects like Walking School Buses, a program to help children safely walk to school to promote physical activity, and Sleepover for Science, a program to teach young people about the health sciences, are just a few of the opportunities through which students can make a tangible impact in the Spokane community.

The increase in the Spokane class size to 60 would not have been possible without funding from the Washington State Legislature. Additionally, 40 second-year medical students—the first class to experience the UW School of Medicine's nationally recognized new curriculum—will move to the Gonzaga campus to continue their education.

Along with these 100 students experiencing innovative classroom training, hundreds more UW medical students will complete third- and fourth-year clinical training in physicians' practices in Spokane and eastern Washington. This growth in medical education has the potential to make real, measurable improvements in the health outcomes in some of the most underserved areas of our state. That is a future we can all get excited about. ■

"Thanks to this new UW-Gonzaga collaboration, a record-breaking 60 medical students arrived on the Gonzaga campus in August."

EWU STUDENTS TRANSFORM NEIGHBORHOODS

By Dr. Mary Cullinan, President, Eastern Washington University (EWU) and University District Board Member

Wherever you've lived, you've probably wondered:

- Why are some streets so congested?
- Can our community be safer?
- Why don't more people live downtown?
- What would make our neighborhood more attractive?
- When will we finally clean up our air and waterways?

For 40 years, EWU's Urban & Regional Planning program has trained students to address problems like these. Our graduates gain the analytical and organizational skills and expertise to help communities plan for a viable future.

For many of us, urban and regional planning is invisible. We live in communities but don't really understand how they work or how they can be changed. But, behind the scenes, EWU's Urban & Regional Planning faculty and students are improving our neighborhoods, our environment and our lives.

It all starts in Spokane's University District, where EWU offers a Master's degree in Urban & Regional Planning as well as the only accredited undergraduate urban planning degree in the Northwest (and one of only sixteen in the country). With the assistance of outstanding faculty, a rigorous curriculum, and hands-on intern-

ships, EWU students and graduates are solving a wide range of thorny urban and community issues. Here are a few examples of recent EWU student projects:

Alarmed by automobile fatality rates on the Colville Reservation, EWU student and tribe member **Adam Amundson** used a grant from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission to improve safety on the reservation's roads and sidewalks.

After a superfund cleanup in Libby, Montana, graduate student **Amy Hilland** is helping to design a long term plan for the greater Libby trail system.

Spokane tribal member and recent EWU graduate **Chamisa Bird** helped obtain a \$1.4 million HUD sustainability grant to make the Spokane reservation more livable, sustainable and pedestrian friendly.

EWU students also are preparing a master plan for city parks in Coulee Dam, helping the City of Colfax with a historic preservation project, and partnering with Spokane's East Central Neighborhood to create a ten-year revitalization blueprint. They also have collaborated with Spokane neighborhoods to improve pedestrian access and make traffic patterns less hazardous.

With all this real world training, EWU's Urban & Regional Planning students and graduates are in high demand. For years to come, they will be on the front lines helping our communities become more livable, environmentally sustainable, safe, and appealing for residents, visitors, and businesses. ●

"Our graduates gain the analytical and organizational skills and expertise to help communities plan for a viable future."



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GONZAGA COLLABORATION: THE HEART OF HIGHER ED IN SPOKANE

By *Thayne M. McCulloh, D.Phil., President, Gonzaga University (GU) and University District Board Member*

One of the key themes of The University District is the power of working together. Spokane's leaders understand that collaboration and cooperation are essential in our community—one richly served by a number of excellent institutions.

At Gonzaga, our newest collaboration, The University of Washington/Gonzaga University Regional Health Partnership, is breaking down traditional barriers in higher education to meet the increasing demand for more physicians and addressing new opportunities in the region's growing healthcare industry.

At the core of the Partnership is the education of students for the medical professions, and GU faculty members are excited to work alongside their UW colleagues, and contribute expertise and experience to the presentation of the Foundations Phase—the first 18 months—of UW's new medical school curriculum.

In addition to teaching, the Partnership focuses on each universities' strengths in innovation, health care, sciences and entrepreneurship, and will generate research opportunities that will lead to new products, services and therapies and, ultimately, grow companies and jobs. The Partnership will also contribute to the multi-institutional commitment to the health of our community.

There's wide recognition that significant social and economic benefits result from building strong regional education systems with health-care specialties. Not only do such systems support and serve residents in our communities, but they also provide the infrastructure that attracts new talent, businesses

and organizations to our area.

That's why Gonzaga recently brought aboard a talented professional with state-wide life sciences commercialization experience to serve as Director of the Partnership. Dr. Courtney Law brings a personal track record of success as well as an extensive network of collaborators from her work with Life Science Washington, the Life Sciences Discovery Fund Authority, UW, and North Carolina State University. Dr. Law will guide Gonzaga's efforts in the partnership and will work with UW colleagues to advance mutual goals.



Courtney Law, PhD

All of this is happening as, just across the river, WSU Health Sciences Spokane prepares to open the doors of its new medical school. This initiative creates the opportunity to further strengthen and enhance current GU-WSU initiatives as well. For example, GU's Center for Law and Justice collaborates with WSU Spokane, Providence Health Care and the Center for Justice on the Health & Justice Project, a medical-legal health advocacy program.

Gonzaga—and all of Spokane's education institutions mentioned on these pages—seek and find ways to work together. In venues across the community, you will see leaders, trustees, faculty, and students meeting with each other and with the business, non-profit and civic community to craft shared solutions to common concerns and opportunities.

These collective efforts are making Spokane, and The University District in particular, a community poised for growth and transformation to benefit the Inland Northwest and beyond. ■

COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF SPOKANE AND WSU NURSE TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

By *Dr. Christine Johnson, Chancellor, Community Colleges of Spokane (CCS) and University District Board Member*

Community Colleges of Spokane, one of the largest community college districts in the state, has its district headquarters in the heart of The University District. This location is proving ideal for generating healthcare training partnerships with neighboring institutions.

Thanks to an innovative agreement between Spokane Community College (SCC) and WSU Health Sciences Spokane, nursing students now have access to WSU's state-of-the-art College of Nursing simulation lab. Additionally, a new transfer agreement between the two institutions allows nursing students to pursue three years of nursing education at SCC, followed by one year at WSU in order to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree. SCC has a similar fast track RN certification transfer agreement in place with Gonzaga University.

"Access to the simulation lab for eight hours each quarter is fantastic," says SCC nursing student Allesandra Straggi. "The WSU Spokane campus is beautiful, and it helps to get perspectives from both WSU and SCC instructors." Fellow SCC student Anna Kuznetsov agrees. She appreciates the affordable community

college tuition and the challenging curriculum. "I love it. I enjoy solving problems, so every day in clinicals feels like I'm discovering important evidence in a detective story." Both Kuznetsov and Straggi plan to pursue the additional year after completing three years of study at SCC to earn their BSN. "SCC and WSU make our degree pathway clear and more flexible and that saves me time and money," Straggi says.

"SCC and WSU make our degree pathway clear and more flexible and that saves me time and money."

With over 200 students enrolled, the SCC program trains a large majority of the nurses in the Spokane area. Add to that SCC's nearly 200 graduates per year pursuing careers in medical assisting, health information management, medical billing, radiology technology, sonography, echocardiography, surgical technology, dental assisting, vascular technology, pharmacy, invasive cardio-technology and respiratory care; as well as Spokane Falls Community College's nearly 150 graduates in health programs such as addiction studies, gerontology, health/fitness, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pre-nursing, orthotics and prosthetics and hearing instrument specialties—and it's no surprise that CCS is a vital force in the Inland Northwest health-care industry and economy. ■

WHITWORTH: EMPOWERING BUSY ADULT STUDENTS

By Beck A. Taylor, Ph.D., President, Whitworth University and University District Board Member

It's been almost seven years since Whitworth opened its University District location and expanded program offerings for nontraditional evening students. During that time, we've seen hundreds of students pass through our doors, creating connections with faculty and professional peers, and bonding over career goals and accomplishments. We've seen families burst with pride at graduation as loved ones finish their degrees and begin pursuing their dreams.

Still, many working adults have yet to make the goal of earning a higher education degree a reality due to challenging schedules and career and family responsibilities. However, Whitworth's adult education programs, offered through the School of Continuing Studies, provide degree opportunities to suit the increasingly complex schedules of working adults. Evening programs and accelerated courses, such as new hybrid online classes, help give working professionals affordable, flexible options while earning a bachelor's or master's degree.

At Whitworth's University District location, working adults can conveniently earn undergraduate degrees in management and accounting, organizational management, criminal justice administration, public service administration, social services or humanities, or a graduate degree in Whitworth's accelerated master of

business administration program.

Students can attend class one-to-two times a week, with hybrid courses available. Hybrid courses offer the benefits of an in-class experience with the flexibility of an online program.



Josiah Roloff

Attending evening programs and accelerated courses are ideal for working adults like Josiah Roloff, president and senior digital forensics analyst for Global CompuSearch. Roloff travels nationally and internationally and works out of two of the company's four offices in Spokane, Portland, Palm Springs and Sacramento. Needing to fit coursework into such a challenging schedule, Josiah spent substantial time researching other universities' online and campus programs prior to enrolling at Whitworth. ■

"I ultimately chose Whitworth due to its stellar reputation, flexible class offerings, high requirement for admittance, small class sizes, and the extremely supportive and friendly staff," he says. "My Whitworth education has expanded my technical and management expertise so I can better serve my clients and work more effectively with my colleagues."

Josiah Roloff, Whitworth Student

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UNIVERSITY DISTRICT RECREATION

By Jon Jonckers, Board Chair, Friends of the Centennial Trail

Step outside and blaze a trail.

From Riverfront Park to Mission Park, you will find dozens of unique recreational opportunities along the Centennial Trail that hugs the Spokane River through the heart of The University District. Runners and cyclists of every stripe gravitate to the scenic community path for exercise, but that's only scratching the surface. The University District's college campuses and abundant city parks spark dozens of outdoor activities, and it's easy to see why.

In the spring, local college students ride longboards or skateboards to class. In the summer, stand up paddlers and kayakers glide up and down the river.

For roughly eight months of the year, the Flying Irish Running Club promotes Thursday evening fun runs through the neighborhood. Charity walks and fundraisers occasionally crisscross the tree-lined boulevards and trails. There's always something happening.

The Spokane River is at the heart of most of these activities, but The University District is connected to other trails and community paths. There are several bike lanes, plenty of parking at trailheads, and there's even a boardwalk connecting The University District with Riverfront Park. When the future University District

Gateway Bridge is complete, the Ben Burr Trail will become another treasured community path and a link to the South Hill.



Local businesses and eateries definitely cater to all of these recreational enthusiasts and calorie burners. Making plans to meet in The University District for a bike ride, a walk, or even a trip to the Jundt Art Museum is super convenient because The University District is a hub for so many other active pursuits. Public swimming pools, tennis courts and Hoopfest basketball courts are located at Mission Park. The aforementioned Centennial Trail extends all the way to Couer D'Alene, Idaho to

the east, and Long Lake campground to the west. There's even rock climbing and mountain biking areas at John Shields Park and Beacon Hill less than 15 minutes away.

All things considered, the continued growth and the positive effects of recreation in The University District don't show any signs of slowing down. A spirit of active collaboration between local businesses, city planners, and the college campuses testifies to their progressive thinking and their focus on creating a neighborhood with boundless recreational opportunity. ●



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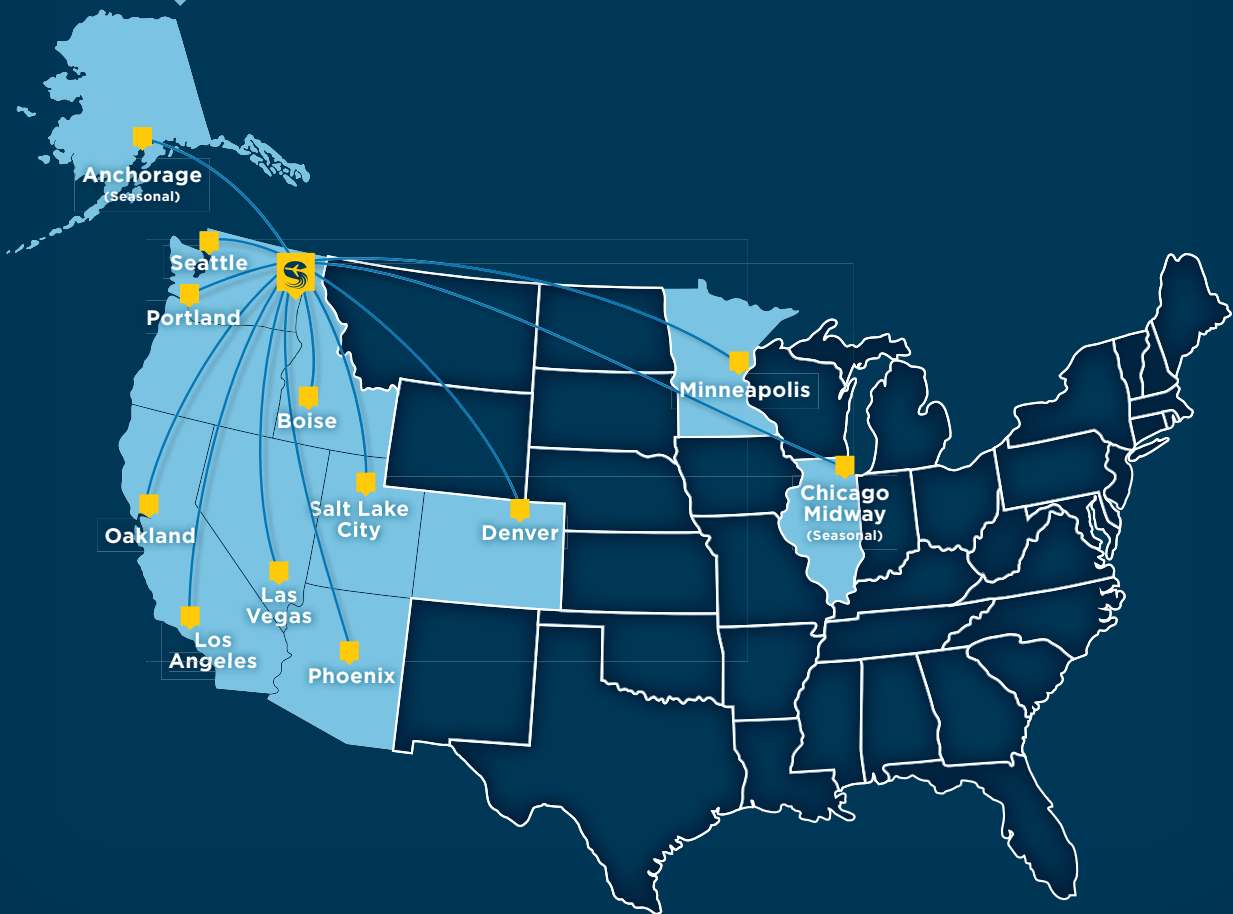
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