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Berglin Corporation recognized as 2001 Business of the year

Port of Douglas County tenant, the Berglin Corporation, recognized at the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet as the Douglas County Business of the Year.

At the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet on January 17, the Berglin Corporation was recognized as the 2001 Douglas County Business of the Year. Kris Pomianek, Executive Director for the Chamber, made the announcement at a function attended by over 400 participants at the Wenatchee Convention Center. In her introductory comments (*the text for the announcement is included at the end of this news release*), Kris gave a brief history of the Berglin Corporation and described how they relocated their precision-machine manufacturing operation to the Wenatchee Valley from California in 1996. Kris highlighted the Berglin's 33% growth over the last 5 years and their utilization of two of the Valley's most valuable resources: low-cost power and fiber-optic communication lines. Kris also commended the Berglin Corporation for its innovation in finding new ways to control costs and developing work-force skills such as utilizing empty incoming fruit transport trucks and partnering with the College for employee training programs.

"This is really an over-whelming experience for me," said Scott Berglin, president of Berglin Corporation. "A great deal of the credit goes to my employees and the public and private services that have helped us grow."

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The Berglin Corporation has been a 5-year tenant of the Port of Douglas, and will be moving into a new building currently under construction by the Port in the spring of 2002. They presently employ 15 people and expect to double their work force in the next 3 years with the expansion into the new 21,500 sq.ft. facility.

"The Berglin Corporation is the 'poster-child' of the type of company that we believe can flourish in North Central Washington," said Pat Haley, Director for the Port of Douglas. "They utilize our low-cost resources such as power and labor and export high-end finished products, which keeps more profits in the community. They also provide family-wage jobs and service their customers through the fiber-optic communication system. This allows them to continue to grow and do business anywhere in the world."

An example of one of their out-of-town customers is the Dream Works Corporation that does graphic animation for Stephen Spielberg and other film producers. Dream Works discovered the Berglin Corporation from their website, and contracted with them for the design and manufacturer of an animation table that allows for computer generation of animation graphics to speed the process that was previously done frame at a time by hand. Dream Works was so satisfied with the product that they ordered enough units to equip all of their graphic artists in their studios around the world.

Over 30 nominations were considered for the award and two were selected to represent Chelan and Douglas Counties. Kris concluded her announcement by saying, "This Douglas County business of the year has shown innovation and creativity, and has added new economic wealth to our Valley."

More information on the Berglin Corporation can be found at their website at www.berglin.com or by calling 509/886-5000.

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**Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce
2001 Business of the Year**

At this time, I am pleased to have the opportunity to introduce to you our 2001 Businesses of the Year. These past few years have been challenging ones in our Valley. Our hope in selecting a business of the year was to recognize those businesses that have risen above the challenges and have been innovative and creative and have grown their businesses despite the obstacles. We had over 30 nominations. After a great deal of deliberation, the selection committee chose 2 winners, one from Chelan County and one from Douglas County. I will begin with Douglas County –

The winner of the 2001 Business of the Year in Douglas County moved to the Wenatchee Valley from California in 1996. Initially they hired six people to work for them, starting out slow; they carefully evaluated every step they took in developing their business. Over the last 6 years, this company has averaged over 33% growth and currently employs 17 people. This company provides family wage jobs and utilizes one of our most valuable resources – low cost power. This company imports low-cost raw materials and exports high-end finished products, which allows a higher profit margin to stay in this community. This company has also made full use of our fiber optic distribution to demonstrate the effectiveness of e-commerce, doing business all over the world without ever having to leave our Valley.

The principal of this company has developed many partnerships in the Valley to control his costs while providing benefits to others in the Valley as well. For example, the effective use of empty incoming fruit transports trucks and the use of Wenatchee Valley College for training opportunities for his employees. This Douglas County business of the year has shown innovation and creativity, and has added new economic wealth to our Valley.

At this time, I am pleased to announce that the 2001 Business of the Year for Douglas County is Berglin Corporation. Our thanks and Congratulations are extended to Scott Berglin of Berglin Corporation for choosing the Wenatchee Valley as a place to live and work and for being selected as the 2001 Business of the Year for Douglas County.