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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Kay Bachman, Project Manager

University District

509-456-0580 x106

kbachman@downtownspokane.net

www.SpokaneUniversityDistrict.com

PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO CONNECT WITH THE UNIVERSITY DISTRICT AT AN OPEN HOUSE

April 16, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Riverpoint Campus, WSU Spokane Academic Center, Room 147

(Spokane, WA, April 2, 2009) -- The University District Development Alliance will host a community Open House to connect public input with current District efforts. The theme of the outreach meeting is, "*Come Connect: Where are you in the University District?*" Citizens will have the opportunity to learn about current and upcoming projects and initiatives within the District, as well as share ideas how to shape the future of the developing community. With the University District as a priority on the mayoral agenda, Mayor Mary Verner is scheduled to participate in the Open House as well as other community leaders.

The University District Open House will be held from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16 at the Riverpoint Campus Academic Center in Room 147. For information regarding Riverpoint Campus parking, please visit www.spokane.wsu.edu/campusresources/Facilities/Parking/visitors.asp.

In addition to defining the University District's boundaries and goals, the event's program will focus on key development issues facing the area: transportation, economic development, infrastructure, and marketing and communications. The event will also include specific discussions regarding neighborhood and public involvement throughout the development process.

Representatives from the major stakeholders within the University District will be present to explain project timelines, discuss outcomes, as well as answer questions from participants. Those major stakeholders include: the City of Spokane, Downtown Spokane Partnership, Greater Spokane Incorporated, Avista, Spokane Transit

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Authority, Washington State University Spokane, Gonzaga University, Eastern Washington University Spokane, Community Colleges of Spokane, Sirti, and local neighborhood and business councils.

Live, Learn, Work and Play! Spokane's University District has it all for "U." Come see all this exciting community has to offer and how you can help shape the future of this extraordinary destination.

For further information regarding this event, please contact University District staff, Kay Bachman at 509-456-0580 x106 or kbachman@downtownspokane.net or Brandon Betty, at x111 or bbetty@downtownspokane.net.

About the University District

The University District is a live/work/play confluence of innovation, discovery, entrepreneurship, scholarship and neighborhood development that provides an ongoing stream of economic growth and business opportunity for the region. The District offers opportunities to address economic development issues, urban growth, environmental restoration, transportation and affordable housing needs. Connecting the core strengths of the educational institutions with regional economic drivers forms an urban laboratory for the creation of new knowledge and opportunities for applied, community-engaged research, resulting in economic value and quality of life.

About the University District Development Alliance (UDDA)

The UDDA partners work together to drive development in the District that will support and enhance the region's higher education and health care anchors, and shape an outstanding quality of life and sustainable economic growth throughout the region. The UDDA partners, comprised of individuals, businesses, institutions, nonprofit and community organizations, city agencies, foundations, corporations and others will be responsible for developing a sustainable plan of implementation for the District.

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