



For Immediate Release:

January 24, 2012

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Local workforce leader gets national award at U.S. Conference of Mayors

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Citing her tireless efforts to put people back to work, the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council has honored Marléna Sessions with its first-ever Distinguished Service Award.

Sessions is the CEO of the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County. The recognition came at the mayors' 80th winter meeting this month in Washington, DC.

"Marlena is our first recipient and very deserving of this special recognition," said outgoing council president Tom Phillips. He initiated the award for WDC board members who exemplify superior commitment and outstanding service to the organization.

"She continually went above and beyond," added Phillips. "She not only serves as second vice president and co-chairs the Youth Committee, but also created a timely Youth Employment Survey for legislative outreach, and was a major contributor to the WDC's report to Congress on an ideal 21st-century workforce system."

The U.S. Conference of Mayors WDC is a group of workforce boards from large cities across the U.S. who work together to advocate for workforce development and support their mayors in matching the skills of the workforce with the skills employers need.

Under Sessions' leadership, the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County is recognized nationally for putting people to work in high-paying jobs through training programs that meet current employer demand and outreach to minority groups, youth and the homeless. The organization is among the top four workforce boards in the nation, according to a study by the Working Families Institute of the AFL-CIO.

"I'm very honored and humbled by this recognition by my peers," said Sessions. "We will continue to work with the U.S. Conference of Mayors to support workforce development across the U.S. and strengthen our own efforts here at home."

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The **Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County** (www.seakingwdc.org) is a nonprofit workforce "think tank" and grant-making organization that oversees employment-related programs for youth, the adult workforce and employers in King County, with the goal of a strong economy and self-sufficiency for every resident.



The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Telecommunications Relay System, 800.833.6384 or 7-1-1.