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For more information, contact:

Peter Theisen, United Way of Whatcom County, ptheisen@unitedwaywhatcom.org, (360)733-8670

UNITED WAY OF WHATCOM COUNTY WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

BELLINGHAM, Washington---The United Way of Whatcom County Board of Directors elected three new members at their March 25th meeting. Eileen V. Coughlin, Cheryl Crazy Bull and Peggy Nelson were elected to the Board and began their terms following the meeting. An orientation in the coming month will give the new members the opportunity to learn more about the Board and to tour United Way Partner Agencies.

“The new members were chosen as a result of the Board’s goal of increasing membership,” said Peter Theisen, President of United Way of Whatcom County. “The Board set out to expand its diversity and to bring in representation from different sectors: higher education, media and tribal.”

Eileen V. Coughlin has been Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support Services at Western Washington University since 1994. She has authored numerous successful grant applications including two from Costco Wholesale Corporation for Western’s Leadership Advantage initiative and a federally funded grant for Ending Violence Against Women. At Western, Dr. Coughlin holds administrative and fiscal responsibility for Student Affairs and Academic Support Services, which includes program areas with combined budgets of approximately \$60 million in operating funds.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, Sicangu Lakota from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, has served as the third President and first woman President of Northwest Indian College since 2002. Since her arrival, the college has undergone many improvements and has started its work to become a four-year degree granting institution with the implementation of the Bachelor’s in Native Environmental Science. In addition to her over 30 years of working in education, Ms. Crazy Bull has expertise in economic development and planning, micro-enterprise development and cultural arts promotion and preservation.

Peggy Nelson is Vice President-Divisions Operation Manager for Banner Bank in Northwest Washington. Being a long-time contributor to United Way, Peggy says she is looking forward to joining the board. She hopes to bring her extensive bank experience to help analyze various non-profit organizations’

contributions to the community in order to spread all funds the farthest and for the most benefit. She plans to act as ambassador for United Way within Banner Bank to ensure the most support possible, and advocate United Way with the broader business community.

“It will be great to have new ideas, energy and expertise on the Board,” said Theisen. “We are excited to work with the new members and to incorporate their ideas and experience to make our community stronger.”

The Board of Directors comprises 25 volunteer corporate and community leaders in Whatcom County, all of whom are committed to improving lives and building a strong community. Each member serves on the Board for a six-year term. The Board is currently engaged in strategic planning, exploring how United Way can best make a significant difference in our community and researching ways to increase resources.

United Way of Whatcom County has worked for over 50 years to increase financial resources for local health and human service needs, and to seek and invest in community-building opportunities to improve the health and welfare of Whatcom County residents.

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