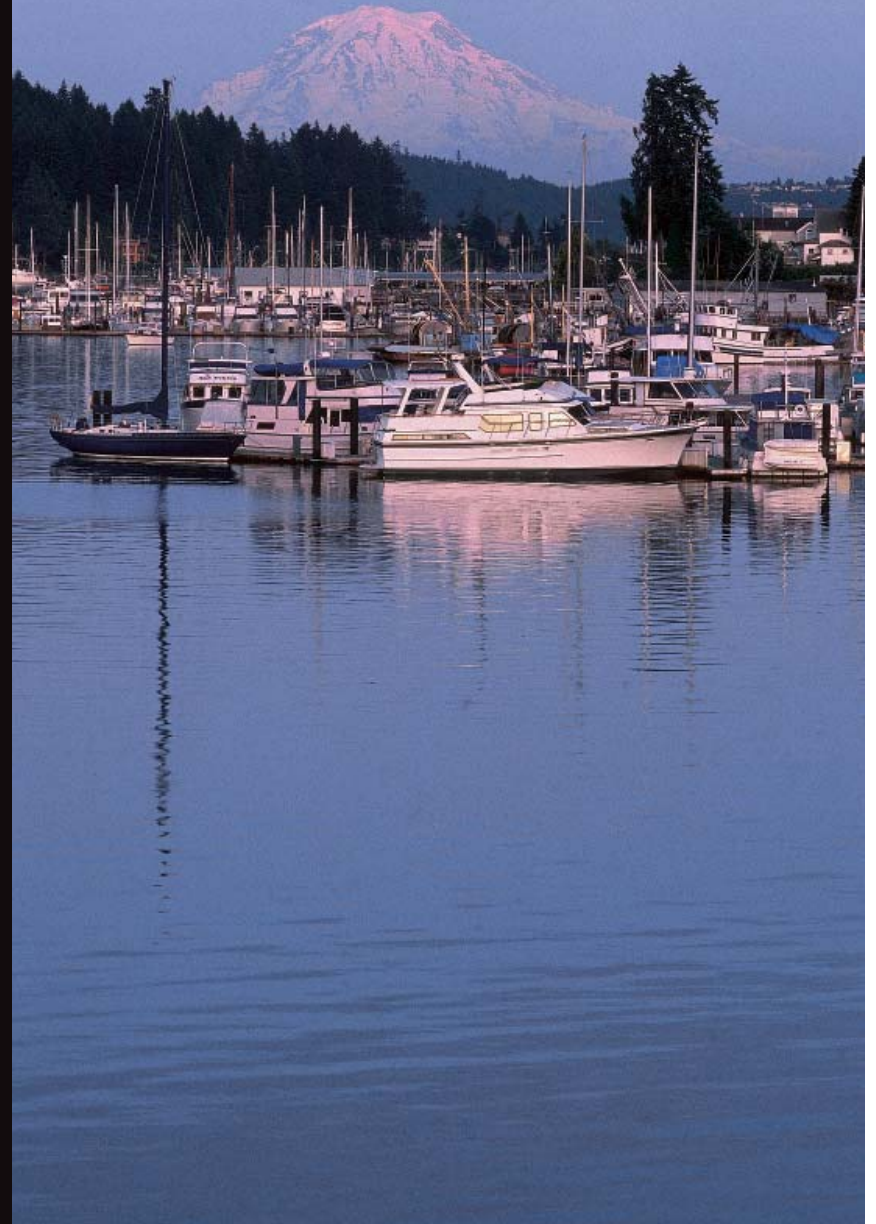
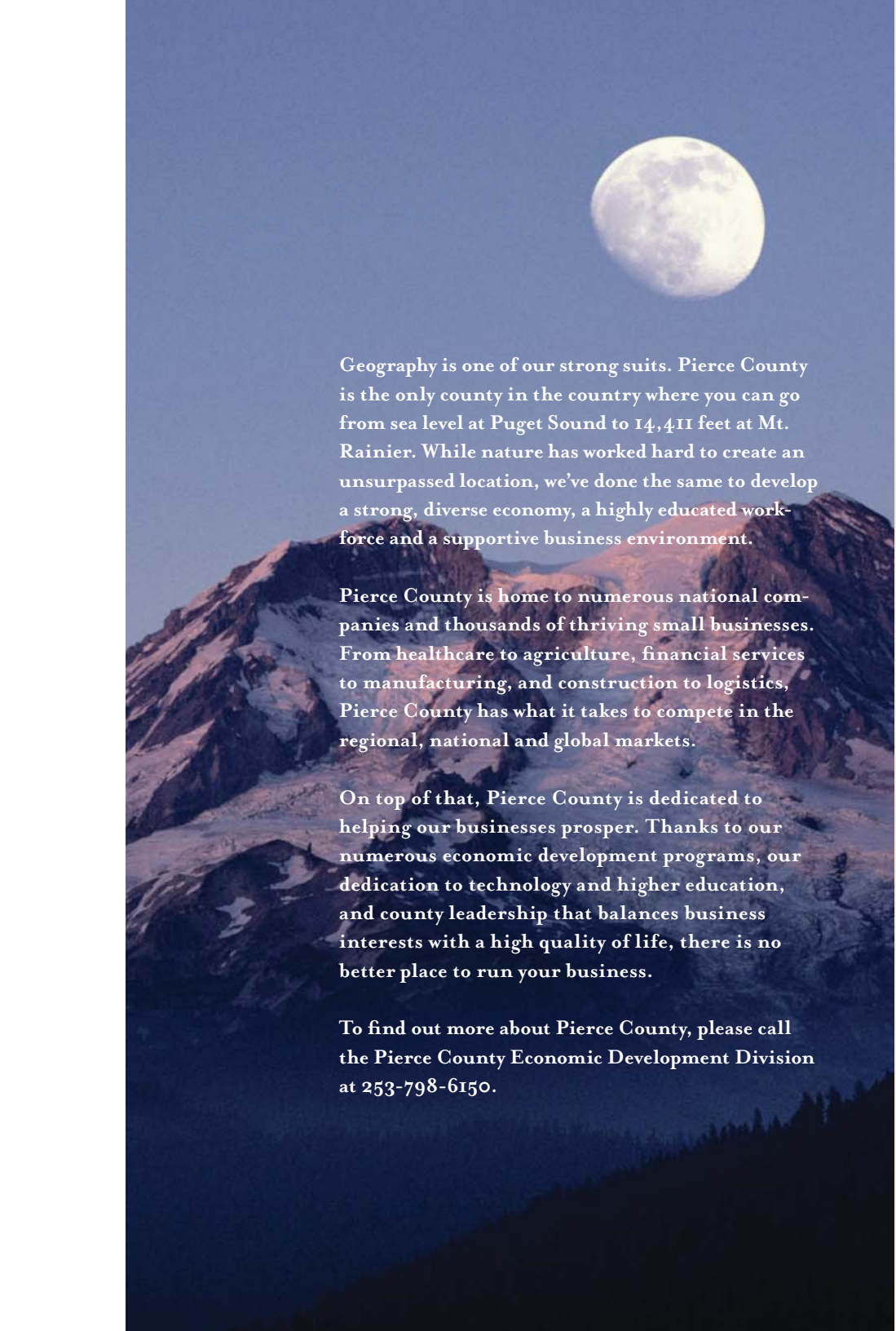




PIERCE COUNTY · WASHINGTON

NATURE MADE IT BEAUTIFUL.  
WE MAKE IT ATTRACTIVE.





Geography is one of our strong suits. Pierce County is the only county in the country where you can go from sea level at Puget Sound to 14,411 feet at Mt. Rainier. While nature has worked hard to create an unsurpassed location, we've done the same to develop a strong, diverse economy, a highly educated workforce and a supportive business environment.

Pierce County is home to numerous national companies and thousands of thriving small businesses. From healthcare to agriculture, financial services to manufacturing, and construction to logistics, Pierce County has what it takes to compete in the regional, national and global markets.

On top of that, Pierce County is dedicated to helping our businesses prosper. Thanks to our numerous economic development programs, our dedication to technology and higher education, and county leadership that balances business interests with a high quality of life, there is no better place to run your business.

To find out more about Pierce County, please call the Pierce County Economic Development Division at 253-798-6150.



*“Pierce County offers advantages for importers and exporters with easy access to the port, railroad, and the interstate. And you couldn’t ask for a more beautiful place to work. The blue skies, green trees, plus numerous options for great coffee, contribute to a happy and productive workforce.”*

Lisa Chissus,  
VP and General Manager,  
Flex-a-lite Consolidated;  
President, Cascade Plastics, Inc.



**For more information,  
please contact:**

**Pierce County  
Economic Development Division  
253-798-6150  
[www.piercecountywa.org/edd](http://www.piercecountywa.org/edd)**

Location

Workforce

Business Environment

Opportunities

Cultural & Community  
Amenities

Resources

OUTSTANDING

## Outstanding Location

Pierce County is ideally located, as close to Asia as we are to Europe. The Port of Tacoma, one of the nation's top five container ports, serves as a major gateway for goods going to Alaska, the Midwest and the East Coast. The port is also the leading container port in the Pacific Northwest for goods moving to and from Asia.

Pierce County is in the heart of the thriving Greater Puget Sound Region—just 35 miles south of Seattle and 20 miles south of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Both Sea-Tac Airport and King County/Boeing Field provide excellent airfreight mobility.

Our transportation system enables convenient links to the rest of the country—and the rest of the world. Interstate 5 slices through Pierce County from north to south, linking us to Canada and Mexico, and Interstate 90 is less than 30 miles north of the Pierce County border, providing a direct link to the Eastern states. Shipping by rail is a breeze with service by Union Pacific and Burlington Northern to the rest of the continent.

Our location on Puget Sound, in the shadow of Mount Rainier, makes living here as enjoyable an experience as doing business here.

## Outstanding Resources

Community partners provide outstanding resources for businesses, including technical assistance, below-market loan programs, and assistance obtaining permits. Here is a sample of what your business can expect.

The Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County (EDB) provides site selection assistance, business recruitment, and is a partner in business retention. The EDB can also provide tax-free bond financing opportunities and business technical assistance.

[www.gopierce.org](http://www.gopierce.org) (253) 383-4726

The World Trade Center Tacoma is a full-service member of the global World Trade Center Association which works to help businesses locate opportunities and operate in international markets.

[www.wtcta.org](http://www.wtcta.org) (253) 396-1022

WorkForce Central provides services to businesses such as: recruitment pre-screening and job matching; electronic job postings and resume banks; assistance arranging customized training; information on business, industry and economic trends; and, workplace consultations.

[www.thebusinessconnection.net](http://www.thebusinessconnection.net) (253) 583-8806

Pierce County provides loans, technical assistance, demographic analysis, permit assistance, and other business retention and expansion services.

[www.piercecountywa.org](http://www.piercecountywa.org) (253) 798-6150

## Outstanding Cultural & Community Amenities

You and your employees will find a world of recreation right here. Pierce County goes from sea level to 14,411 feet. There are water sports on Puget Sound, alpine sports on Mount Rainier, nights at the theater, and days at the zoo. Pierce County truly has it all. We have world class dining and cozy corner coffee shops. We have unique museums and historical sites. And we have an abundance of parks and trails, rivers and lakes and miles of marine shoreline.

Need golf? Among the numerous public and private courses throughout Pierce County is Chambers Bay, a world class Scottish links-style golf course, designed by Robert Trent Jones II and managed by Kemper Sports. Chambers Bay has won praise from professional golfers and has been chosen to host the US Amateur in 2010 and the US Open in 2015.

We have 22 cities and towns in Pierce County, each with unique offerings. For example, Tacoma rightly boasts of its museums, convention center, theaters, and waterfront parks. Puyallup is home to one of the nation's ten largest state fairs and Gig Harbor's maritime heritage is evident throughout this thriving community.



Chambers Bay Golf Course

## Outstanding Workforce

Pierce County's population has grown by 18 percent over the last decade. We have a skilled and well educated workforce, and host numerous colleges such as the University of Washington, Pacific Lutheran University, the University of Puget Sound, and others. Additionally, our four community and technical colleges can provide workforce training customized for your business.

An important military presence, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, provides a unique source of workers. Many highly trained and disciplined military personnel choose Pierce County as their last duty station so they can move into civilian life in our community and apply their technical skills in the private sector. Spouses of active military personnel also bring sought-after skills and abilities to the workforce.



*"James Hardie's Tacoma Plant has been in the Frederickson Industrial area for over 11 years and we have been very successful due to the highly skilled workforce and the business-friendly environment. The Tacoma plant has the highest productivity and lowest cost structure among the 10 Hardie manufacturing facilities in the United States."*

Brian Lee  
Tacoma Plant Manager James Hardie

## Outstanding Business Environment

You'll be in good company in Pierce County, alongside global industry leaders who find this area a great place to do business. Our economy blends the traditional with the innovative. Manufacturing thrives alongside high-tech start-ups. The aerospace industry is a regional mainstay and Microsoft's headquarters are just a short drive to the north.

Our business climate supports manufacturers such as Boeing, Milgard Manufacturing, James Hardie Building Products, Toray Composites (America), Inc. and Medallion Foods, and we work continuously to improve the business environment so our businesses thrive.

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), Whirlpool, and Costco have major distribution centers here. State Farm Insurance has a regional headquarters in Pierce County, and innovation thrives at the research divisions of Intel, Charles River, and Madigan Army Medical Center.



## Outstanding Opportunities

Pierce County has the largest vacant industrial land supply in the Puget Sound region, much of it with rail access and other infrastructure already in place. With predictable and scaleable utility service, including ample water and sewer capacity, abundant, affordable power, and redundant telecommunications facilities, your business can grow here for years to come.

Our diverse economy is particularly strong in construction, logistics, tourism and military employment. No matter what line of business you're in, you can find suppliers and support services within the region.

Foreign Trade Zone #86 gives importers and exporters the ability to reduce, delay or even eliminate payment of Customs duties when adding value to goods (contact the Port of Tacoma, 253-593-4550).

Pierce County and Washington State have no personal or corporate income tax and no inventory tax. Numerous targeted incentives are available for business, including among others:

- Tax Credit for Pre-Production Expenditures
- Tax Exemption for Manufacturing Machinery Purchases
- High Technology Sales/Use Tax Deferral

*"Rapid growth forced our company to find a new location. We wanted to stay close to our employees but were concerned about a narrow permitting and building timeframe. Pierce County helped our project move smoothly and quickly. We were in our new building right on schedule."*

Devin Kimura, President & CEO  
Cynthia Kimura, Vice President  
[Artbeads.com](http://Artbeads.com)