

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 30, 2009

Media Contact:
Caroline Bombar-Kaplan
425-260-3302



**Washington State Housing Finance Commission
Honors Exceptional Achievements in Affordable Housing**

Spokane, Wash. — The Washington State Housing Finance Commission presented five awards to two individuals and three organizations last night at the *2009 Friend of Housing* awards ceremony taking place during *Housing Washington*, the annual statewide conference on affordable housing. More than 350 people attended the awards celebration at the DoubleTree Hotel Spokane City Center in Spokane.

This year's honorees were selected for their leadership and exceptional contribution to creating or supporting affordable housing, implementing housing-related programs, creating innovative financing mechanisms for housing, supporting homebuyer education or technical training efforts within the housing community and helping to solve housing problems. The Commission received nominations for the *Friend of Housing* awards from people working in the public, private and independent sectors of the affordable housing industry.

Two Friend of Housing Individual Achievement Awards:

1. Sheila King, Executive Director of Multifamily Affordable Properties (and aptfinder.org), a nonprofit organization based in Tacoma; and
2. Renee Rooker, Executive Director of the Walla Walla Housing Authority.

Three Friend of Housing Organizational Achievement Awards:

1. Housing Authority of Chelan County and the City of Wenatchee
Alicia McRae, Executive Director

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2. Islanders Bank of Friday Harbor, San Juan County
Phyllis Davis, Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer, and
Carrie Brook, Loan Officer
3. Pioneer Human Services
Marla Gese, Senior Vice President of Real Estate Services, and
Martha Martin, Director of Housing

Washington State Housing Finance Commission is a publicly accountable, self-supporting agency dedicated to increasing housing access and affordability and to expanding the availability of quality community services for Washington state residents.

Information on each award recipient is available at www.wshfc.org.

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