

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GONZAGA STUDENTS TO PICK UP
WHERE EWU PLANNING STUDENTS LEFT OFF**

(Davenport, WA, February 6, 2012.) A group of MBA students from Gonzaga University recently approached the Lincoln County Economic Development Council (EDC) offering their assistance with the County's economic development plan. The students are from a Quantitative & Statistical Analysis class and are required to work with a non-profit community agency on a service-learning project. Because they have only a 3-month period in which to work, they have to find a non-profit partner with a complete data set for a community project that is ready to be analyzed now. Fortunately for us, the data from the EDC's countywide SWOT survey (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) was a perfect fit.

EDC Director Margie Hall met with a student representative on Friday and an agreement was signed to go forward with the service-learning project. The students will not only analyze the survey results, but also will analyze the County's retail sales activity over the past eleven years to look for trends and to forecast what we might expect in the near future. Additionally, some population analysis will be performed utilizing 2010 Census data. Students will present their findings in the latter half of March and those results will be shared with the public and incorporated into the final written plan.

One of the students is a Lincoln County native – Ben Wyborne of Wilbur. Ben recently retired from the Air Force and returned to school to get his Master in Business Administration degree. He mentioned to his father, Wilbur Mayor Robert Wyborne that his group needed a community project and Mayor Wyborne suggested he contact the EDC. We are extremely grateful for that suggestion as it will not only result in more comprehensive and precise analysis of our data, but it is analysis that would have cost a minimum of \$2,000 had the EDC hired a consultant.