



CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SJSV Chamber: Portland region encourage business expansion, job creation with flexible policies, proactive practices like outsourcing

Forty-five Silicon Valley business and civic leaders learned how Portland region's local governments keep the job fires stoked through practices that help provide certainty to private investors and driving industries.

Beside members of prominent regional firms, the delegation for the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber's annual City-to-City Study Mission Oct. 19-21 included San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, Council Member Rose Herrera and members of the city staff and economic development department. The program was presented by Applied Materials and Intel.

"Because of proactive government practices—including outsourcing of plan checks and inspections—a company like Intel was able to get a \$3 billion expansion project approved in about a year's time," said Matthew Mahood, president & CEO. "Imagine if that could happen in the Silicon Valley—how many more businesses would be inclined to expand their operations or relocate here."

In addition, the SJSV Chamber participants found that Portland region local governments support mixed use developments through a flexible design review process, embracement of creative developers and adoption of practices that reflect market realities.

Among other discoveries that highlighted the Portland Study Mission were how agencies across the region "stayed on message" that celebrated the national environment and the man-made enhancements of the region.

"Delegation members felt that the consistency to message help drive home the benefits of the region to residents, businesses as well as visitors and those wanting to relocate," Mahood said. "This kind of regional branding is a strong economic development tool that enhances a region's competitiveness."

One other important discovery was the Portland region's success in education via partnerships with education institutions, government and business.

"Of particular note, Portland State University has found that a 1 percent increase in completion of college programs will result in a \$1.6 billion increase to the economy annually," Mahood said. "Portland State University uses its resources to assist students in graduating high school and completing college or career training. Leveraging this collaborative impact serves the entire educational system and creates a stronger workforce." A full report on the Study Mission findings will be issued shortly.

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The SJSV Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit business association representing nearly 1,500 employers and 250,000 employees throughout the greater Silicon Valley. Its mission is to create a strong local economy, provide premier business connections and visibility, represent the interests of business to government, promote the community and initiate political and community action. For more chamber information, visit sjchamber.com.