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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Central Washington Introduce New Leaders Kittitas County Program**

**ELLENSBURG, WA – September 13, 2021** – New Leaders Kittitas County (NLKC) is a program by the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce and United Way of Central Washington to engage, educate and empower current professionals and emerging leaders. This program creates opportunities for connectivity, innovation and influence in our workforce and communities.

“United Way of Central Washington is so excited to be partnering with the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce to help make an impact on the community by forming New Leaders Kittitas County,” said Resource Development Manager Joshua Callanan. “Already we have a ton of great ideas and I can’t wait to see what this group of young professionals will be able to accomplish.”

“New Leaders Kittitas County is a fresh and inclusive way to connect current leaders and those wanting to pursue leadership roles in the community,” said Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce CEO Amy McGuffin. Similar to a young professional program, New Leaders Kittitas County allows those 21+ to join both the Chamber and United Way of Central Washington in celebrating new lifelong connections imperative to the success of our county and each industry professional attending.”

The first NLKC event will occur on September 21, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Dark Moon located at 319 N Pearl St. Ellensburg, WA 98926. Both organizations encourage professionals and emerging leaders in the county to join.

For more information, please join our group on Facebook; New Leaders Kittitas County. If you have any additional questions, please email the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce Director of Chamber Outreach and Economic Advancement Darby Grimes at [darby@kittitascountychamber.com](mailto:darby@kittitascountychamber.com) or call (509) 925-2002.

**About the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce:** The Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce is the largest business support and development organization in Kittitas County, and one of the largest in Central Washington. With over 500 members representing every business sector, the Chamber and its committees oversee county-wide tourism promotion and economic development initiatives and a range of business support tools including publications, web services, seminars and even leadership development for a new generation.

**About United Way of Central Washington:** Our United Way is committed to overcoming intergenerational poverty by collaboratively building resilience and closing the opportunity gap in the lives of our youth in Central Washington. Through United Way’s community programs and partner agencies, we reach 1 in 3 people living right here in Yakima and Kittitas Counties. People you know - living in your neighborhood, going to your kids’ schools, working alongside you every day.

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