

2024 IMPACT REPORT



INLAND
NORTHWEST
PARTNERS

PROMOTING COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Inland Northwest Partners is pleased to present our 2024 Impact Report, highlighting the educational and networking opportunities we provided in 2024. Our mission is to deliver high-quality speakers who offer valuable best practices and actionable ideas, empowering participants to implement positive changes in their Inland Northwest communities. We are committed to fostering a welcoming environment where community leaders can connect, exchange knowledge, and support each other's growth and vitality.

To our valued members, we extend our gratitude for your continued support of INP. We hope you had the chance to attend one of our engaging meetings. If you missed any, the [resource tab](#) on our website hosts presentations from each event for your convenience. For those who haven't joined us yet, we warmly invite you to become a member or participate in our events in 2025, and together, let's continue to make a meaningful impact in our communities. Thank you!

Thank you to our INP Board Members

Paul Kimmell - Chair, Avista Corp
Mike Tatko - Sec/Treasurer, Avista Corp
Shelly Enderud - Vice Chair, City of Post Falls
Mike Basinger - City of Spokane Valley
Ray Corwin - Bank of America

Jenny Ford - Idaho Central Credit Union
Jenny Hemly - Idaho Dept. of Commerce
Susan Herr - Washington State Dept of Commerce
Colleen Rosson - Silver Valley EDC
Nick Pappin - Washington State University-Extension

COMMUNITIES HAPPEN ON MAIN STREET: IDEAS INTO ACTION



INP's first meeting in 2024 was held in Pullman on March 29th. We welcomed back Becky McCray, Co-founder of Save Your Town. We had 86 participants join us -- many who had participated in 2017 when Deb last keyed at an INP event.

Our event sponsors were Clearwater Economic Development Association, Panhandle Area Council and Avista Foundation.

The event rated a 4.79 out of 5 in providing an educational and valuable event according to our survey results.

"Becky was engaging and motivational! Absolutely hilarious and wildly informative..I'm going home with practical and immediate ideas I can use in my community."

Following the day's high energy presentations and group discussions, Becky took attendees on a walking tour of Pullman and showed simple immediate steps that could be taken to improve the look and feel of a downtown area.

The following two days, Becky toured Uniontown, Deary, Potlatch, Palouse, and Orfino with local elected officials and community builders.



REINVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES: GROWTH, PROSPERITY AND POWER

Our summer meeting was held at the Circling Raven Golf Course in Worley on July 24th. Our event sponsor was Zero Emissions Northwest.

Working with the Spokane office of the U.S. Small Business Administration, INP brought more than 10 speakers from SBA, Avista, USDA Rural Development, both Washington and Idaho’s Commerce Departments, Innovia, Partners for Rural Washington, and Rural Development Initiatives.

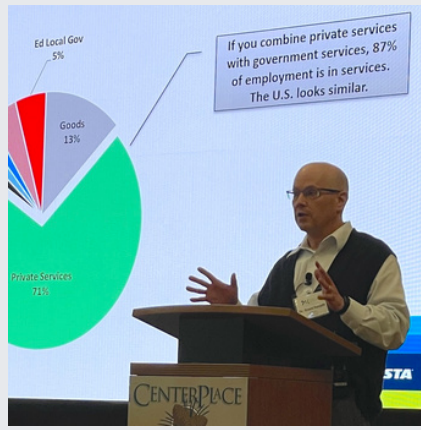
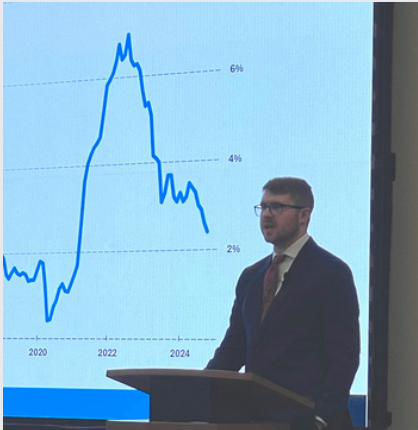
The objective of the day’s event was to highlight problems and opportunities for communities to assist in making future projects happen by working with these important agencies, businesses and philanthropic organizations. Participants rated the event 4.55 out of 5.

Speakers shared information about renewable energy programs and grant opportunities available throughout the Inland Northwest. A panel shared examples of projects and stories of micro loans that have been funded in our region.

Following the conclusion of the INP program, participants had the opportunity to participate in a listening session with Jenn Clark, the Regional Advocate of U.S. Small Business Administration. They were able to share some of the challenges faced by our Inland Northwest communities and businesses.



FALL ECONOMIC FORECAST



On October 29th, INP held its Fall Economic Forecast at the lovely Centerplace venue in Spokane Valley. A big thank you to our headline sponsor Spokane International Airport as well as our venue sponsor City of Spokane Valley.

This annual event brings the region’s top economic experts to share their perspectives on current and future trends, business markets, demographic and workforce. Overall survey results scored the event 4.71 out of 5.

Rick Dunn, Benton PUD General Manager, provided information about Washington’s carbon-free electricity policies and their impacts today and into the future.

Idaho’s Department of Labor’s Sam Wolkenhauer shared the trends of Idaho’s economy and Avista Corporation’s Grant Forsyth provided information for Washington. M&H Economic Consultants John Mitchell shared national perspective of economy and what the future might hold in his presentation, “A New Crew, Falling Rates, Old Questions, and New Challenges”.

Lightcast’s Phil Blankenship shared the findings of a recent Lightcast publication concerning the labor shortage, *The Demographic Drought: The Rising Storm*.

