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## **FUTURE OF FLIGHT'S MARKETING DIRECTOR RETURNS FROM GOVERNOR'S TRADE MISSION TO CHINA**

(Mukilteo, Washington) – Sandy Ward, Marketing Director for the Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour recently returned from Beijing and Shanghai, China, where she joined Governor Gregoire and 100 Washington State professionals on a trade mission.

Washington State Tourism, Seattle's CVB and the Port of Seattle led and a group of tourism representatives, which included Ward (a Washington State Tourism Commissioner), destinations, hotels and tour operators to Beijing and Shanghai. During the mission, the group met with over 200 Chinese travel buyers, tour operators and travel agents who are doing business and interested in expanding travel business to Washington State. In 2010, it is expected that Washington State will receive about 35,000 Chinese visitors, up from just a few thousand only three years ago. China is the fastest growing source of global tourism and it is expected that by 2012, nearly 100,000 Chinese visitors will come to Washington State.

Year-to-date, visitors to the Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour are up 13% over 2009. The largest increase to the center comes from overseas visitors, with the top five countries being Japan, Germany, Australia, China and Great Britain. Chinese visitors represent the most stable growth to the center, year over year.

The Future of Flight Aviation Center is a unique learning and interpretive facility designed to give wings to innovative thinking. The 73,000-square-foot Future of Flight facility includes a 28,000-square-foot Aviation Gallery with interactive exhibits and displays, 9,000-square-foot rooftop observation deck overlooking Paine Field, Boeing Tour Center, conference space for 250 people, special event space for groups of up to 750 people, a 240-seat theater, 125-seat café, Future of Flight Store and Boeing Store.

The Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour is open from 8:30am – 5:30pm daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Tours of the Boeing Assembly Plant operate daily at 9, 10, 11am and 1, 2 and 3pm.

Future of Flight Aviation Center & Boeing Tour, 8415 Paine Field Blvd., Mukilteo, WA 98275, 425-438-8100, [www.futureofflight.org](http://www.futureofflight.org).