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## **Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside Names New General Manager**

### ***High-Tech Waterfront Center Plays Key Role in Renaissance of Downtown Bremerton***

BREMERTON, Wash. – Jan. 22, 2008 – Columbia Hospitality, Inc., today announced that it has promoted Terry Halvorson to general manager of Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside.

Halvorson replaces Erik Ruud, a longtime employee of Columbia Hospitality, which manages and operates Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside. Ruud helped open the high-tech conference center that has been a key component in the renaissance of Bremerton's downtown waterfront.

Prior to joining the Kitsap Conference Center, Halvorson was director of conference services at Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Seattle's waterfront facility, which is also operated and managed by Columbia Hospitality.

"We are pleased to have such a talented new general manager for Kitsap," said John Oppenheimer, founder and president of Columbia Hospitality. "Terry comes from a great background with another of our properties, Bell Harbor International Conference Center, and she has a strong reputation for bringing the utmost in quality and customer service."

Owned by the City of Bremerton, the 10,000-square-foot Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside hosts professional conferences and retreats, banquets, weddings and other special events. The facility, which can accommodate groups of between 10 and 750 guests, is home to the region's newest meeting facility, the Fountain Room, which is in the dramatic new Harborside Fountain Park.

The conference center and park, which has five large copper-ringed fountains, wading pools and lush landscaping, is part of the new Harborside District.

"The Harborside District as a whole has been an immense economic catalyst for the city of Bremerton, with the conference center playing a role in the renaissance," says Ruud. "The innovative Fountain Room and picturesque Harborside Fountain Park are just the latest components to Bremerton's economic success story."

The center had a record month in September 2007, taking in \$163,053 in revenue while hosting 41 different events and more than 4,000 guests.

"This is a thriving conference center," said Halvorson. "My job will be to continue the momentum that Erik, the city, and Columbia Hospitality have created." Halvorson has more than 20 years of experience in hotel sales, catering, convention and services at Seattle area hotels.

"I truly look forward to working with Terry," said Bremerton Mayor Cary Bozeman. "The conference center has been such a great benefit for Bremerton, and I'm excited to see what's in store for the city. The new Fountain Room has already added so much."

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** high-resolution photographs of Terry Halvorson, Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside, Harborside Fountain Park, and the Fountain Room are available on request.

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### **About Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside**

Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside is a high-tech conference center on the waterfront of Bremerton, Wash. The conference center is available for professional conferences and retreats, banquets, weddings and other special events. Kitsap Conference Center can accommodate 10 to 750 guests. The center, which is a one-hour ferry ride from downtown Seattle, offers views of Sinclair Inlet and is literally 100 steps from the Seattle-Bremerton ferry terminal. Amenities include free wi-fi service, videoconferencing, teleconferencing and onsite catering. The conference center is owned by the City of Bremerton and managed and operated by Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality, Inc.

For more information, visit [www.kitsapconferencecenter.com](http://www.kitsapconferencecenter.com).

### **About Columbia Hospitality, Inc.**

Columbia Hospitality, Inc., a leading hospitality management and consulting firm, was founded in 1995 by John Oppenheimer. Columbia Hospitality creates exceptional experiences for guests and employees while achieving phenomenal results for its property owners. Specializing in luxury hotel and resort management, Columbia Hospitality expertly transforms each vision for a unique property into an enduring and profitable business. Columbia Hospitality's premier properties include boutique hotels and secluded resorts such as the following:

- Kenwood Inn and Spa, located in Sonoma's Valley of the Moon (Kenwood, Calif.)
- The Salish Lodge & Spa (Snoqualmie, Wash.)
- The Inn at Langley on Whidbey Island (Langley, Wash.)
- Friday Harbor House on San Juan Island (Friday Harbor, Wash.)
- Lakedale Resort at Three Lakes on San Juan Island (Friday Harbor, Wash.)

The company also manages a portfolio of conference centers and event venues in Washington state:

- Bell Harbor International Conference Center (Seattle)
- Talaris Conference Center (Seattle)
- Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside (Bremerton)
- Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook (SeaTac)

Other unique venues operated by Columbia Hospitality include:

- World Trade Center Seattle (Seattle)
- Club Cielo at ESCALA (opens 2009) (Seattle)
- Odyssey Maritime Discovery Center – catering and events only (Seattle)
- Pier 30 Event Center (Seattle)

The company additionally supports an active consulting division that has worked on more than 80 hospitality development projects in the Western U.S. and Canada.

Columbia Hospitality was named to the *Puget Sound Business Journal's* list of the fastest growing private companies in Washington state four times in the past six years. Columbia Hospitality also has been named one of Washington's Best 100 Companies to Work For by *Washington CEO Magazine* and one of Washington's Best Workplaces by the *Puget Sound Business Journal*.

For more information, visit [www.columbiahospitality.com](http://www.columbiahospitality.com).