



**WORLD TRADE CENTER®  
SEATTLE**

## **WORLD TRADE CENTER SEATTLE APPOINTS NEW MEMBER TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

*Seattle Chocolates Company CEO brings expertise and leadership to WTCSE*



*Caption: Jean Thompson, CEO of Seattle Chocolates Company*

**Seattle, Wash. (February 24, 2016)** – The World Trade Center Seattle (WTCSE) is pleased to announce the appointment of Jean Thompson, owner and CEO of Seattle Chocolates Company, to its board of governors. Thompson will join existing board members to foster new and continued opportunities among business leaders throughout the Pacific Northwest.

“World Trade Center Seattle is a powerful network of industry leaders whose insights and ideas stimulate economic growth in our area,” said Thompson. “I’m thrilled to be part of the board and help develop creative opportunities that will continue that growth and make Seattle thrive.”

Thompson is known as a business and marketing leader in the Northwest, transforming the way consumers think about chocolate. By expanding the audience for chocolate from just a special occasion item to more of an everyday indulgence, Seattle Chocolates Company has seen tremendous success since she took the helm in 2002, tripling in size and producing millions of chocolate bars and truffles each year. Prior to taking over the company, Thompson worked at Microsoft and Gupta Technologies in various marketing and communications management roles.

Thompson joins WTCSE as the organization experiences a substantial boost in membership and participation. In 2015, WTCSE increased its membership by 24 percent and grew the board of governors to 39 members, representing various industries throughout the Pacific Northwest such as commerce, travel, health and technology.

“Jean is a dynamic addition to our growing board,” said Shelley Tomberg, director of World Trade Center Seattle. “As Seattle continues to solidify its position as a global marketplace for business, ideas and technology, World Trade Center Seattle is even more vital to our local business leaders, allowing them to develop genuine and strong alliances. We look forward to Jean’s contributions to the board as she is truly a business leader influencing the future of Seattle.”

For those interested in meeting Jean and learning from her entrepreneurial journey, she will be featured in a fireside chat on March 29. “What Happiness Tastes Like: A Fireside Chat with Entrepreneurs Jean Thompson and Stacy Lill” will begin with a tasting of Seattle Chocolates and O Wine, as well as a brief program and Q&A. For more details, please visit:

<http://www.wtcseattle.com/what-happiness-tastes-like>

### **About World Trade Center Seattle**

A gateway for commerce, trade and opportunity, the World Trade Center Seattle (WTCSE) is a gathering place that provides access, collaboration and networking for business leaders throughout the region. WTCSE is part of the World Trade Center Association that provides members with access to more than 330 World Trade Centers in 90 countries with more than 1.5 million member companies. Located on the Seattle waterfront at 2200 Alaskan Way, WTCSE offers members complimentary valet service, no-charge meeting rooms and no minimum expenditures. Meeting and event space offering stunning views of the Seattle waterfront is also available to the general public. The WTCSE is owned by the Port of Seattle and operated by Columbia Hospitality.

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**Media Contact**                      Joleen Zanuzoski  
Public Relations, GreenRubino  
P: 206-447-4747  
E: [joleenz@greenrubino.com](mailto:joleenz@greenrubino.com)