

## **The Port of Kennewick: Building Innovative Partnerships**

For the most part, the role of the Port of Kennewick, as a public sector entity, is not to create jobs directly. Rather, we create the foundation, and provide the opportunity, for private sector enterprises to flourish, boosting our economy and creating employment opportunities.

One of the key ways the Port accomplishes its mission is by forging innovative and productive partnerships with other governments and with private sector businesses. By making targeted investments in redevelopment efforts that spark economic activity, and by nurturing businesses as they launch, stabilize and grow, the Port helps to ensure a bright future for the Quad-Cities.

### **A Commitment to Collaboration**

The Port of Kennewick works closely with local governments to capitalize on economic development opportunities. Economic development partnerships with West Richland, Richland, Kennewick, and Benton City and Benton County are geared towards creating successful retail, commercial and industrial business growth throughout the Port district. Recently, **the Port initiated an exciting new partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation** and is exploring opportunities to partner on projects providing mutual benefit.

### **Helping Businesses Develop and Grow**

The Port also builds partnerships with the private sector, focusing on nurturing business growth, development, and innovation. By offering young and expanding businesses affordable rents and other support at Port-owned facilities like the Oak Street Industrial Site or the Vista Field Development Buildings, **the Port fosters its tenants; helping them grown and become established, so they can create and retain jobs while providing diversification to the local economy.** Then when those businesses move on into larger, non-Port locations **the virtuous cycle repeats itself as new businesses with new ideas take advantage of the Port's assistance.**

### **A Real Success Story**

One of the Port's success stories is Ti-Sport. The Port recognized early the potential of this cutting-edge sports equipment business, and during their time at **Oak Street Industrial Park, Ti-Sport grew from a small startup to a thriving 140-employee business making state-of-the-art lightweight racing wheelchairs.** Now as an established business, Ti-Sport purchased and renovated its own building where it continues to expand. As a result new, aspiring businesses will now be able to be accommodated in the three Port-owned buildings Ti-Sport once occupied.