

# Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship

*Connecting People, Place and Possibility*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*Public invited to register for the November 12 event in Waterville:*

## **IRIS to Host 6<sup>th</sup> Annual North Central Washington Community Success Summit in Waterville**

WENATCHEE, WA, Sept 16, 2015 —The Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS) plans to showcase success stories when it teams up with partners to convene the 6<sup>th</sup> annual NCW Community Success Summit in Waterville on Thursday, November 12, 2015. “A Great Place to Come Home To” is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the NCW Fairgrounds in Waterville, WA.

“We’re thrilled to work with the Town of Waterville and the greater community to host the Summit this year,” said Nancy Warner, IRIS Program Coordinator. “As people who live here know,” she said, “this community, including Orondo and Douglas, is a great place to come home to.” She noted that the non-profit organization plans to hold the summit in a different rural community each year. “Over time we will showcase and pass on a collection of success stories that can help the next generation thrive,” she said.

Some of the questions community members plan to highlight with success stories include: In what ways are we increasing the health and connectivity of our lands and waters? How are we using cross-generational relationships to improve our health, foster lifelong learning and grow opportunities for jobs? And how are people working together to reduce waste and knowledge and to increase resource sharing in North Central Washington?

To build on the last summit in Okanogan, Warner said IRIS is working again with the local school district in Waterville to engage a team of faculty and students in all aspects of the summit. Waterville School students will help identify the assets of their community to share with Summit participants and be among the presenters sharing success stories. They will also



work with resource experts to facilitate roundtable discussions on issues common to all communities across the region.

IRIS is working with an advisory committee to plan other elements of the summit that will include lunch catered by the Harvest House, live music, a community timeline, and a series of interviews that will highlight why the Waterville community is such a great place to come home to.

Event planners anticipate that more than 160 people from Waterville and across the region will participate in the summit this year. An annual celebration of success, the summit also serves as a fundraising event that will enable IRIS to continue the cycle of highlighting success through 2020.

IRIS is proud to acknowledge the following sponsors for this year's event including the Town of Waterville, Port of Douglas County, Community Choice Healthcare Network, Wenatchee Valley College, The Wenatchee World, Central Washington Grain Growers, Bainbridge Manufacturing, Waterville Community Fund, The Nature Conservancy of Washington, Economic Alliance, NCW Economic Development District, Auvil Fruit Company, Molina Healthcare of Washington, Douglas Community Historical Association, and AmeriGroup.

For more information about sponsoring and how to get involved in the 2015 NCW Community Success Summit contact Nancy Warner, Program Coordinator at 509-881-1812, [nwarner@applecapital.net](mailto:nwarner@applecapital.net). To see the agenda and to register visit [www.irisncw.org](http://www.irisncw.org).

To learn more about the assets, strengths and connections among the Waterville community including Orondo, Waterville and Douglas click on the Listening Post Network link at [www.irisncw.org](http://www.irisncw.org) or call 509-343-0599.

*The Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS) fosters sustainable rural communities in North Central Washington by gathering and sharing success stories that enhance a sense of belonging, inspire action, and build community. We believe that thriving communities in a healthy environment create success. On the web at [www.irisncw.org](http://www.irisncw.org).*

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