



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Ellen Miller-Wolfe, Economic Development Manager
Date: December 16, 2015
Subject: Google 2015 eCity Digital Capital Award

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council hear the presentation of Darcy Nothnagle, Google Head of External Affairs NW, and receive the 2015 Google eCity, Digital Capital Award.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Google's eCity Awards recognize the strongest online business community in each state. These cities' businesses are using the web to find new customers, connect with existing customers and fuel their local economies.

Google and independent research firm, IPSOS, analyzed the online strength of local small businesses in cities in all fifty states. They looked at a variety of factors to determine the leading cities and towns across the U.S., including the likelihood of small businesses to have a website, use a blog, promote themselves on a social network, sell goods directly from their webpages and whether they had a mobile-friendly website. The winning cities exhibited strong engagement and potential for growth within the digital economy.

Google also recognized the award of grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to Lake Washington Institute of Technology (LWIT) for a Photonics program and also a Future Tech Star program for low income students in their tribute to Kirkland.

Kirkland joins Bainbridge Island and Bellevue, recipients of this award in past years. Google's presence in Kirkland continues to raise the profile of the city as a tech savvy place. This award demonstrates that small businesses in Kirkland also are savvy in their use of state-of-the-art, online tools to sustain and grow their companies. Congratulations to all!