



Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau

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News Release

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DON WELSH NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO OF SEATTLE'S CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

SEATTLE – Don Welsh was named president and CEO of Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau (SCVB), effective April 1, 2005.

Welsh, a tourism industry veteran with strong Seattle ties, has served as SCVB's senior vice president of sales and marketing for the past two years. He succeeds Steve Morris, who recently announced his retirement after serving as SCVB president and CEO for the past 18 years. In his new position, Welsh manages 50 employees in SCVB's main Seattle office as well as sales offices in Washington D.C. and Chicago. Welsh's responsibilities include overseeing all departments of SCVB including operations, sales and marketing, finance and budget management and business development.

Welsh has more than 25 years of experience in the hospitality and travel industries. Prior to his arrival at SCVB, Welsh served as executive vice president of business development for HelmsBriscoe, a meeting planning company in Scottsdale, AZ. Welsh has extensive ties to Seattle and was an original member of the start-up team for Seattle-based Horizon Air. Welsh has held senior sales and marketing positions at Westin Hotels & Resorts, The Ritz Carlton Hotel Company and the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"I am honored and thrilled that the board has selected me to lead the tourism efforts for our great city and region," said Don Welsh. "I am extremely grateful for the chance to have served with Steve Morris and know that Seattle's tourism industry has benefited greatly from his steadfast leadership. Seattle will continue to build on its reputation as a premier convention, business and leisure travel destination. Our hospitality community is consistently distinguished by its strong, collegial spirit. And we are fortunate to have a thriving, walkable downtown, a world-class convention center, along with an extensive array of hotels, restaurants, retail and attractions for our guests."

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Welsh graduated from Towson University in Towson, Maryland. He currently resides in Mercer Island, Washington. with his wife Jean and family.

Seattle's Convention and Visitors Bureau is a nonprofit economic development agency responsible for competitively marketing Seattle as a destination for meeting and convention groups and leisure travelers. Visitors spend \$3.7 billion in Seattle and King County annually, contributing more than \$300 million in state and local tax revenues. Direct visitor spending benefits hotels, retailers, restaurants, attractions, transportation services and other businesses and supports jobs for 60,000 people in the Seattle region.

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