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Topic: Port of Port Angeles Receives Open Government Key Award

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The Washington Coalition for Open Government has recognized the Port of Port Angeles Commission for using transparency and citizen participation in its search for the agency's new executive director.

Senior coalition board member George Erb presented a Key Award to the port commission during a public meeting Sept. 12 at the port's headquarters in Port Angeles. The coalition presents Key Awards to individuals and organizations for actions that advance the cause of open government.

Accepting the award were port commission President Colleen McAleer and Commissioner Connie Beauvais.

The two commissioners, along with Commissioner Steven Burke, in June hired Karen Goschen as the agency's executive director.

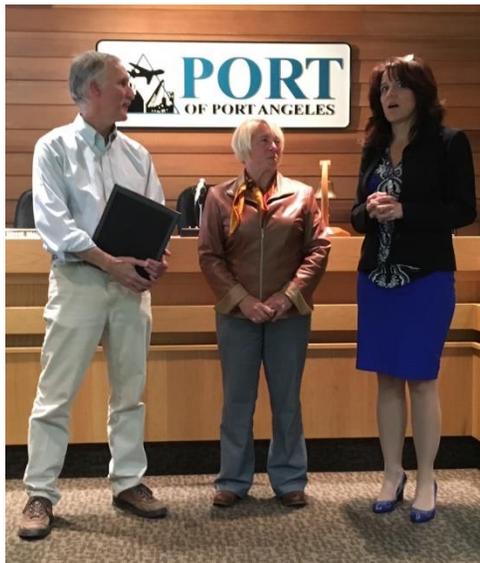
The port commission's search process was notable because it:

- Publicly released the names of the finalists for the job.
- Interviewed the finalists in a public meeting.
- Solicited the public for questions to ask the finalists – and asked them.
- Held a public reception so that citizens could meet the finalists.

The commission's transparent process comes at a time when other state and local agencies – including the state's leading universities – have searched for and hired top administrators in secrecy.

"In contrast, the Port of Port Angeles let its citizens participate in its hiring process in a meaningful way," Erb said. "For that, the port and this commission should be considered role models for governing boards statewide."

In response to receiving the award, McAleer said: "Government entities sometimes don't want the public scrutiny that comes along with transparency, but in the long run it is the best thing to do for the organization and most importantly, the public."



The Port of Port Angeles press release on its Key Award is available online [here](#).

*Join WCOG and help in the non-partisan fight for transparent government and open public participation. WCOG was founded in 2002 by a group of individuals representing organizations with a broad spectrum of opinions and interests but all dedicated to the principles of strengthening the state's open government laws and protecting the public's access to government at all levels. WCOG stands for the principle that transparency and public participation are essential building blocks of good government. Membership is open to the public. For more information contact WCOG at 6351 Seaview Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107-2664, on the web at [www.washingtoncog.org](http://www.washingtoncog.org), or call (206) 782-0393*