



Thinking Like a Community

Connecting Our Stories to Shape our Future

2019 Project Overview

IRIS is writing a book with a thousand authors across our region about what we are doing to build healthier and more resilient communities that will help future generations thrive.

Thinking Like a Community is both the book's title and an expression of our intent – we aim to produce a multi-platform book full of stories that showcases what we can accomplish when we think and act like a community united by shared values and needs. We plan to release this book at the NCW Community Success Summit in November, 2020.

With help from many fellow community members we have already gathered nearly 700 stories of success in this place including oral histories, videos, pictures of health and one-page stories that have been shared through our annual summits and the Success Story Exchange.

But we want and need more. We know there are more stories in every community across the region – stories that once shared can help someone else succeed. Stories that can help us maintain diverse, healthy ecosystems and foster a high quality of life for all. And stories about bridging cultural and political divides that grow heart and unity in the process.

We invite you to contribute to this book of success!

Host your own mini-summit

Convene a group to discuss the success stories included in the 2018 NCW Community Success Summit supplement available at branch libraries throughout the North Central Regional Library District. Consider what stories you want to submit from your own community – what is missing and what has your community figured out that could help another succeed?

Submit a story

Submit a success story directly to IRIS using the 2019 Success Story Exchange form available at www.irisncw and at your local library.

Visit irisncw.org

Review other options for contributing to the project on the Get Involved page





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Discussion Group

Location: _____

Date: _____

Discussion group members: (Please include your email address to receive updates)



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Discussion Questions

For each story consider these questions:

Was there something about the story that made you want to learn more about it and if so, what was it?

Could this success be replicated somewhere else within our region?

How does the success highlighted in the story contribute to the kind of community we want?

As a collection of success stories:

Which stories show how maintaining and restoring healthy ecosystems contribute to a high quality of life? Did you find any stories that demonstrate the linkage between healthy lands and thriving businesses?

Which stories stand out as good examples of cross-generational learning? How are we incorporating the transfer of knowledge into our organizations and communities?

Is there one particular story that stands out as a good example of increasing our individual health along with that of the environment?

What do these stories have to teach us about how to bridge social and political divides and to grow more heart and unity in our communities?

In terms of your own community:

What is one beautiful thing that can't be seen by just driving through it?

If your community were to host the annual NCW Community Success Summit what would your tagline be? What is unique about your place and what are your aspirations for the future?



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2019 Success Story Exchange

IRIS is gathering stories about what people in Okanogan, Douglas, Chelan, and Grant counties are doing to build healthier communities. Please use this form to submit a story that highlights one of the themes below. Submit stories to irisncw@gmail.com by 3/30/19. Submissions will be edited to best showcase your success and published in the Success Story Exchange, part of the IRIS 2020 Legacy Project, *Thinking Like a Community*. Some will also be printed in The Wenatchee World and the Douglas County Empire Press.

LAND & WATER: Our community maintains diverse, healthy ecosystems

- Increasing health, resiliency, and connectivity of our lands and waters, and restoring the natural habitat and species of our region.
- Maintaining the environmental quality and beauty of the land, while incorporating the needs of people and planning for generations to come.
- Practicing sustainable resource use by reducing waste, maintaining productive farmland, and connecting people with nature via open spaces, natural places, and public parks.

THRIVING LIVES: Our community fosters a high quality of life for all

- Increasing access to transportation, health care, recreation, educational opportunities and safe, decent, and affordable neighborhoods where people want to live, work, play, and engage with their community.
- Growing a sense of empowerment, self-reliance, and confidence that supports our ability to adapt and change.
- Fostering healthy businesses that create and retain jobs, increase local production of foods and other goods, and contribute to a resilient economy and environment.

HEART & UNITY: Our community is welcoming and bridges cultural & political divides

- Cultivating cross-generational and multicultural relationships that foster a sense of belonging, trust, and produce diverse leaders who step up and seek collaboration.
- Enriching our lives by using art, technology, and gathering places to bring people of different cultures and perspectives together to increase understanding.
- Growing tolerance and creativity through civic dialog that constructively addresses different views, leverages our assets, and builds a common vision.



2019 NCW Community Success Summit Story Exchange

Story Title **Contact:** (email or phone)

Story Theme(s): **Land & Water, Thriving Lives, Heart & Unity**

Successful Outcome: What has been the result of your success? (50 words)

Situation: What prompted the need for action? (150 words)

Challenge: What was the biggest challenge you had to address? (100 words)

Key Activities: What are some of the things you did that led to the success? Who was involved and what actions did you take? List 3-4 bullets. (100 words)