



## 200 jobs moving to Pierce County

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WESTERN INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW BOARD will move its operations to Puyallup by the end of the year, bringing with it 200 employees.

The company, which provides ethical review of research projects that involve tests on humans, will move to a 45,000-square-foot space in Puyallup's South Hill Business and Technology Park, owned by **The Benaroya Company**. WIRB will be housed in a park-like setting adjacent to Pierce College that is close to hiking trails as well as numerous stores and restaurants.

The company, recently bought by a New York investment group, says the new space will not only enable it to consolidate its operations in one place, but will also provide it with room to grow. "They could have moved anywhere," says EDB Senior Vice President Susan Suess. "WIRB is a leading international company and we look forward to their becoming part of our civic and economic fabric."

The EDB coordinated a large part of the recruitment process. It began last year when a real-estate broker representing the then-unnamed client approached the EDB for help in the company's search. Once the Puyallup area was identified, the EDB, assisted by the City of Puyallup, helped with streamlining the permitting process and assisted with questions relating to transportation and parking as well as educational opportunities. The board enlisted the help of Workforce Central in finding additional workers that were needed by WIRB.

To help the company in its transition, the EDB partnered with Puyallup, **Benaroya** and the Puyallup Summer Chamber of Commerce to organize a tour of the facility for some 50 WIRB employees who met their about-to-be neighbors at Westwood Shipping and Parametrix, toured the local shopping areas and restaurants, and were treated to lunch.