



Washington Federal Savings

Contact: Cathy Cooper
Washington Federal Savings
(206) 777-8246

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Washington Federal's CEO Roy Whitehead Appointed President of Federal Reserve Advisory Council

Seattle, WA –January 10, 2006 -- Washington Federal Savings Chief Executive Roy M. Whitehead has been appointed as the President of the Thrift Institution Advisory Council to the Federal Reserve Board for 2006. The council confers with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System on business conditions and issues related to thrift institutions, the housing industry, mortgage finance and certain regulatory issues.

Whitehead, who joined Washington Federal Savings in 1998, has 30 years of experience in the industry with both thrifts and commercial banks. He is the vice chairman of Washington Federal Inc. as well as its president and chief executive officer of both the holding company and the bank.

Washington Federal (NASDAQ: WFSL) is an \$8.3 billion financial institution with 122 branches in seven western states, headquartered in Seattle, Washington.

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