

For Immediate Release

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11/4/2011

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Rainier Connect Named Among Best Family Owned Businesses in Washington

TACOMA, WA – Rainier Connect, a local provider of Internet, TV and phone services in the South Puget Sound, was recognized as the winner of the 2011 Mid-size Family Business award. The award honors family business across the state for excellence in overall business practices, community involvement, and leadership.

Other award recipients included:

- Hillcrest Bakery, Bothell
- Hotstart, Spokane
- Dick's Drive-In Restaurants, Seattle
- Nelson Legacy Group, Redmond
- Mercer Canyons, Prosser
- Wallace Properties, Bellevue
- Stemilt Growers, Wenatchee

Rainier Connect, a fifth-generation, century-old telecommunications company first began with a lucky hand of cards! Imagine Great Grandpa Pete Christensen's surprise when he won a small telephone company in a game of Pinochle. It was 1912 and Pete was a young carpenter from Denmark that knew how to work hard. Even in the beginning it was a family business with Pete's daughter, Annie Christensen Haynes, working long hours at the small, wooden, Kellogg switchboard that that could handle up to 10 calls. The family business began by simply providing rural Eatonville customers with reliable telephone service.

Today, with Brian Haynes at the helm as President and CEO, Rainier Connect offers high-speed internet, cable television, and telephone services to more than 15,000 customers. And it was all done while remaining true to the vision of the family-owned company that Pete Christensen won so many years ago in a hand of cards.

"Community involvement, support and enrichment have been the cornerstone of Rainier Connect's mission since it was founded," said Brian Haynes, President and CEO. "Our focus is in the community. That goes for business and residential customers alike, we are one big community. Whatever we can do to help our customers, we will be there."

About Rainier Connect

A lot has changed since Rainier Connect got the neighborhood talking with locally grown phone service. But we're as fast and responsive as ever at providing reliable

Internet, TV and Phone services to our neighbors throughout the South Puget Sound.
For more information on Rainier Connect visit www.rainierconnect.com.