

PSBJ reveals 100 most powerful, influential business people in Washington for 2020

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Washington state's economic might was put to the test this year, and amid those hardships, influential leaders stepped to the forefront.

So, as the Business Journal's newsroom debated its Power 100, it was important to produce a list that reflected the times. The region's recovery factors heavily into this year's list, which might be the biggest change from a year ago.

It has been anything but business as usual in 2020.

You'll find the old standards — Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and the like — along with 42 faces making their first appearance on the Power 100. But this list considers more than company revenue and personal net worth. Coalitions, nonprofits and foundations played a outsized role in 2020.

Many tech companies thrived and were early adopters of work-from-home policies, some of which have been extended well into 2021. This year saw M&A activity ramp up to a frenzied pace and several Seattle-area companies went public, as well.

Eleven Fortune 500 companies call Washington state home — although in 2020, "headquarters" was a fluid concept as #WFH entered the American lexicon. Amazon announced plans to add 25,000



Dean Jones, Realogics Sotheby's International Realty Principal and owner, oversees more than 375 real estate brokers and staff in seven offices around the Puget Sound region. Realogics is the eighth-largest residential real estate firm in the Seattle area based on 2019 sales.

jobs at its offices in Bellevue, while REI opted out of its newly built headquarters in the Spring District, selling off that property to Facebook.

We'll be the first to admit, the only thing scientific about this list is the biotech and medical executives that appear on it. Rather, the Power 100 is meant to be a snapshot of a year marked by upheaval.

It is also a behind-the-scenes look at the newsroom's Executive of the Year candidate pool. In November, we'll announce one of the executives of the Power 100 as our Executive of the Year. Past honorees of the year include Microsoft President Brad Smith, Amazon global real estate head John Schoettler, former Expedia CEO Dara Khosrowshahi (now CEO of Uber), Alaska Air Group Inc. CEO Brad Tilden, Wright Runstad President Greg Johnson, retired F5 Networks CEO John McAdam, chef and restaurateur Tom Douglas and Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos.

Until then, we hope this list inspires conversation and debate.