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**Jean Thompson, CEO & Owner
Seattle Chocolates**

Sweet, creamy ascent.

In early 2015, Seattle Chocolates CEO Jean Thompson ascended 19,341-foot Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa, fulfilling a lifelong dream. Successfully reaching the top required following the slow, deliberate steps of experienced trail guides during the six-day journey. It's not the first time Jean experienced a steep, difficult climb.

When the Nisqually earthquake hit in 2001, Seattle Chocolates was one of two buildings in Seattle leveled by the destructive quake. Jean and her ownership team regrouped, and today they are on a well-earned ascent to total chocolate domination.

But competition is stiff. "We are situated in the upper north left corner of the country," notes Jean. "Staying competitively priced when you're distributing around the country can be a challenge. If the cost of doing business increases, it affects our ability to grow and create jobs."

To learn more about Seattle Chocolates and how business costs affect employers' ability to expand and share prosperity, visit AWB.org/GrowHere.

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