



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

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Photos attached

Demystifying Manufacturing for Young Adults

Vancouver, Wash. (Oct. 3, 2017) – On October 3, in honor of National Manufacturing Day, 10 local manufacturing companies hosted more than 175 young adults, including students from the School for the Blind, Educational Service District 112 and several school districts.

The students learned about potential career opportunities, apprenticeships and high-paying jobs, many of which don't require a four-year college degree. The event's goal was to demystify manufacturing by exposing students to local companies in hopes of sparking career interest. The students also participated in a bus tour of the Port of Vancouver.

Projections show over the next decade the Portland-SW Washington region's manufacturing sector will need to replace more than 30,000 workers, largely due to retirement.

Participating companies were: Columbia Machine, Frito Lay, Graphic Packaging, General Sheet Metal, Linear Technology, Port of Vancouver, Silicon Forest Electronics, USNR, Clark College Mechatronics Program and WorkSource. The event was held at Warehouse 23.

Companies interested in learning about opportunities to interact with their potential future workforce should contact Cass Parker, Senior Industry Initiatives Manager, at cparker@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1076.

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About Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, contributes to regional economic growth by providing investments and resources to improve the skills and education of the workforce in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. WSW-funded programs operated by WorkSource and community-based organizations help businesses find and hire the employees they need and provide people with the skills, education and training to find work or advance in their careers. WSW collaborates with employers, community colleges and universities, labor groups, government and economic development agencies, high schools, nonprofits and community organizations. Learn more at www.workforcesw.org.

Serving businesses, job seekers and youth in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.