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Reports Provide Insight into State of the Region's Workforce

PORTLAND-SW WASHINGTON (Sept. 27, 2016) – Reports released by the three workforce development boards that serve the Portland-SW Washington metropolitan area give insight into some of the challenges facing businesses and job seekers in the region.

The reports, distributed by the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC), a partnership of Clackamas Workforce Partnership, Workforce Southwest Washington and Worksystems, look at characteristics of the workforce in manufacturing, health care, technology and construction in the six-county region (Clackamas, Clark, Cowlitz, Multnomah, Wahkiakum and Washington) served by the CWWC.

A few findings from the reports:

- The advanced manufacturing sector will need to fill more than 30,000 vacancies over the next 10 years.
- The rate of software/IT jobs added in our region has been higher than anywhere else in the U.S. for nine out of 10 years.
- Nearly half of health care jobs in Oregon and Washington pay \$20 per hour or more.
- Construction jobs, on average, pay better than all other industries in the region.

A fourth report, the *State of the Workforce*, provides information about the quality of the workforce, available and projected jobs, and describes some of the challenges and opportunities facing our region. The information will help the workforce system understand the balance between regional workforce supply and industry demand to ensure workforce development efforts are aligned with the needs of the regional economy.

The reports can be downloaded from www.workforcesw.org, www.worksystems.org or www.clackamasworkforce.org.

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The Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative is a partnership that delivers a unified approach to serve industry, support economic development and guide public workforce investments in the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area. <http://www.workforcecollaborative.org/>

Clackamas Workforce Partnership is a nonprofit organization which serves as an advocate for workforce development within Clackamas County and the State of Oregon. Our mission is to address critical workforce, educational, and training challenges, and develop a skilled workforce that meets the needs of businesses and strengthens the local economy of Clackamas County. Learn more at www.clackamasworkforce.org.

Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), formerly known as the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council, 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 helps businesses find and hire the employees they need and provides people the skills, education and training to find work or advance in their careers. WSW partners with employers, community colleges and universities, labor groups, government and economic development agencies, high schools, community and nonprofit organizations. Learn more at www.workforcesw.org.

Worksystems is a nonprofit agency that accelerates economic growth in the City of Portland, Multnomah and Washington counties by pursuing and investing resources to improve the quality of the workforce. We design and coordinate workforce development programs and services delivered through a network of local partners to help people get the skills, training and education they need to go to work or to advance in their careers. Our partners include employers, labor groups, government, community colleges, high schools, community-based and economic development organizations. Learn more at www.worksystems.org.