



NEWS

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IN OTHER NEWS

Board Meeting

May 14, 2014
4-6 p.m. at ESD112 in Vancouver. Click for details.

April 2014

Welcome to **News** from the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), featuring information about the SWWDC, our partners and workforce development in the region.

Funds Available to Train Existing Workers!

Funds are currently available to advanced manufacturing and IT/software/digital technology businesses to enhance skills of their employees in H-1B visa occupation groups to reduce the need to recruit foreign workers to fill these jobs. Businesses, especially small- and medium-sized companies and those owned by minorities or women, are encouraged to apply.

Over the last year, numerous manufacturing companies have benefitted from these training subsidies provided by the SWWDC.

Thompson Metal Fab was one of the companies to receive funding. "The trainings have enabled us to cut project costs and reduce errors in the shop, while managing production flow more efficiently," said Traci Eshelman, HR Manager.

Learn more at <http://swwdc.org/business-resources/training.html>

Consortium (group) trainings are starting in April for advanced materials and metals manufacturers. Topics are:

- ISO 9001/AS9100:2008 certification
- Machining training
- Lean enterprise certificate

To find out if your company qualifies, contact Lee Ann Lawrence at 360.567.3170 or llawrence@swwdc.org.

Promoting Digital Literacy



WSU Vancouver and the City of Vancouver promote community-wide discussion of digital economy
<http://hashnextchapter.com/>

Strategic Plan 2014-17

View the SWWDC's Strategic Plan at
<http://www.swwdc.org/about-swwdc/strategicplan.html>

Mission

To prepare and promote a skilled and adaptive workforce for a thriving economy in Southwest Washington.

Our Partners



Educational Service District 112

Tacoma Goodwill

Questions/Comments?

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Communications Manager
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Lee Ann Lawrence, Employer Services Manager

Lee Ann Lawrence joined the SWWDC in October 2013 as Employer Services Manager. She assists businesses with funding and training resources to enhance the skills of their existing employees and connects them with WorkSource to recruit and hire new employees.



She leads the manufacturing and IT/software/digital technology sector teams in Southwest Washington where she works on a regional approach to

workforce development in conjunction with the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative, a partnership between SWWDC and the workforce boards serving Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties in Oregon.

Lee Ann is committed to building strong partnerships across industry, business, education and community organizations to support vibrant growth in our regional economy. She has a history of developing programs to meet industry long-term needs. She has eight years' experience building business partnerships in multiple industries, many of which resulted in temp-to-hire opportunities. Her background also includes working with youth, where she doubled youth employment during the recession.

Lee Ann holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Spanish from Western Washington University where she also published and earned a certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She studied economic development at the CIMAS Foundation in Quito, Ecuador.

Reach Lee Ann at 360.567.3170 or llawrence@swwdc.org.

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SWWDC

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New Worker Training Pays Off



WorkSource has on-the-job training (OJT) funds available to offset the costs of hiring and training a new employee.

Over the past year, Southwest Washington companies have received more than \$153,200 in OJT funds as reimbursement for a portion of a new employee's salary as they learn skills customized to that business.

If your business is planning to hire in the next 90 days, contact WorkSource in Cowlitz County at **360.578.4254** or WorkSource in Clark County at **360.735.4983** to see if your company qualifies.

Regional Resources for Manufacturing

To serve the needs of the Southwest Washington-Portland Metropolitan region, the SWWDC, in partnership with Portland-based WorkSystems, Inc. (WSI) and the Workforce Investment Council of Clackamas County (WICCO) has formed the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC). This cross-state partnership delivers a unified approach to serve industry, support economic development and guide public workforce investments in the region.



Watch this four-minute video to learn how the Collaborative is helping manufacturing companies improve worker skills and be more competitive. http://youtu.be/YlcgEw4Q_f0

In conjunction with industry professionals, CWWC developed a Manufacturing Workforce Plan to address the industry's specific needs. [Click here to view the plan.](#)

Students Get Hands-On, High-Tech Experience



Forty local high school students will participate in SEMI High Tech U, an innovative, high-energy program to learn career possibilities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) industries on April 23-25 in Longview.

The program will feature STEM-based exploration classes demonstrating technologies used to create the microchips that power today's electronic devices. Sessions will also provide mentoring opportunities and highlight educational pathways that can lead to careers in high-technology.

Program sponsors and hosts are Lower Columbia College, Axiall, Cowlitz County PUD, Millennium Bulk Terminals, US Bank and Weyerhaeuser.

For more information, contact Lower Columbia College's Career Pathways Department at 360.442.2610.

Kelso High School Students Excel

WELDING: A team of three Kelso high school students took First Place at the Skills USA SW Washington Regional Welding Competition held in February at Lower Columbia College. Qualifying students will compete in the statewide competition April 11-13 at Renton Technical College.



DECA: Kelso High DECA students competed against approximately 3,500 students from across Washington. Nine KHS students will advance to the May 2014 International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in Atlanta, Georgia where they will compete against students from across the U.S. Good luck, Hillanders!

Youth Engagement Benefits Business



Internships and summer jobs teach young people valuable skills, such as communication, how to treat others in a work setting, time management, problem solving – the “soft skills” that make good employees.

If your business is interested in hosting youth internships or summer employment, contact Chelsea Jackson, SWWDC’s Youth Initiatives Manager, at 360.567.1066 or cjackson@swwdc.org.

Read about the need for more connection between business and youth in this article about the CREDC’s “State of Education” lunch <http://www.columbian.com/news/2014/mar/25/business-education-link-economic-development/>.

RFP: Vancouver WorkSource Seeks New Location

The WA State Department of Enterprise Services released an RFP for leased space for the Vancouver WorkSource office.

A pre-proposal conference will be held April 10, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. in the Employment Security Conference Room, 5411 E Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver.

View the RFP

<http://des.wa.gov/services/facilities/RealEstate/Pages/RESLeaseSpace.aspx>

Proposals are due by 3 p.m. on May 19. Contact: 360.902.7373 or DESRESCustomerSupport@des.wa.gov.

RFP: Grant Writing Services

SWWDC is soliciting proposals for a grant writer to research capacity building grants, determine appropriate grants for our organization, and write a minimum of five targeted proposals requesting development capacity funding. Proposals are due Monday, April 21 by 5 p.m. PDT. The complete Request for Proposals (RFP) can be viewed at www.swwdc.org or by [clicking this link](#).

In the News

See recent **coverage of the SWWDC and workforce projects.**

The SWWDC, a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, is the Workforce Investment Board for Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. SWWDC brings together funding, state agencies, local service providers, colleges and community-based organizations to provide employment and training services to employers, job seekers and youth.

Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) is an equal opportunity employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. To place a relay call, dial 711.

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