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IN OTHER NEWS

April 2015

Welcome to **News** from the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), featuring information about the region's workforce system.

Construction Industry Input Sought

To gather information on areas of the building trades and construction industry that may be facing shortages of trained workers, SWWDC is seeking input, via a survey, from

residential, commercial, specialty and heavy civil construction, organized labor and trades, such as painters, roofers, electricians and general labor.

The survey takes about 10 minutes to complete and is open until **April 17**. Click this link to take the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CPXXMVQ> and please forward the link to your contacts in construction and the trades.

To learn more, contact Tracy Schreiber, Employer Services Manager, at tschreiber@swwdc.org or 360.567.3185.

Funds Available for Training Companies to Train IT/Software/Digital Technology Workers

Companies that provide training services may apply to SWWDC for funds to hold cohort or industry consortium training for advanced manufacturing and IT/software/digital technology workers.



SWWDC Board Meeting

June 10, 2015

4-6 p.m. at Partners in Careers
Click for details.

Strategic Plan 2014-17

Read SWWDC's Strategic Plan

Workforce 101 Website

Resources to help job seekers, youth and veterans improve skills to get a job.

Mission

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

Our Partners



Applications will be accepted until **June 30, 2015** or before, if all funds have been awarded. Training must be completed by September 30, 2015. Learn more on our [training page](#) or contact Lee Ann Lawrence, Employer Services Manager, at llawrence@swwdc.org or 360.567.3170.

Help for Companies to Hire and Pay for New Workers



Would it benefit your business to recoup 50 percent of new employees' salaries during the first few

months when they're still learning their jobs? Would you hire a good candidate that was missing an industry certification, if she could obtain the certification at no cost to you?

Those are the goals behind WorkSource's On-the-Job Training program (OJT): make hiring new employees cost-effective and easy for your business and help you hire the right person and train them to meet your company's needs.

WorkSource will help you find candidates and reimburse you, up to \$5,000, for their salary as they learn skills customized to your business. Reimbursement depends on the job and extent of training. To be eligible, contact WorkSource before you hire an applicant.

Your company may also qualify for tax credits for hiring certain job candidates, such as Veterans.

Over the past year, 44 companies in Southwest Washington have received more than \$143,000 through the OJT program to improve the skills of approximately 65 new hires. Employers have found OJT reduces the costs of hiring and training a new employee and also increases employee retention.

Companies seeking new employees can contact Donna Hughes at WorkSource Kelso at 360.578.4259 or dhughes@esd.wa.gov or Darcy Hoffman in Vancouver at 360.735.5038 or dhoffman@esd.wa.gov.

Job seekers can also get no-cost help at WorkSource to gain skills to be competitive in today's job market. Call the Kelso office at 360.577.2250 or Vancouver at 360.735.5000.



Questions/Comments?

Julia Maglione
Communications Manager
jmaglione@swwdc.org

SWWDC

360.567.1070

Barri Horner, Senior Accountant

SWWDC's Senior Accountant, Barri Horner, provides operational and fiscal support for SWWDC and two partner organizations including, payroll, internal, state and funder reporting and cash flow management.



Barri ensures we meet the fiscal deadlines of our grantors and regulatory agencies and implements the fiscal processes required by grants and contracts. She helps co-workers, vendors and partners understand fiscal processes and information and provides technical assistance to our contractors.

Before joining SWWDC in 2009, Barri worked as a contract accountant for several area nonprofits. She has served on the board of the Salmon Creek Soccer Association and as a soccer referee.

Barri has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Warner Pacific College in Portland, Oregon.

Originally from Cincinnati, Ohio, Barri enjoys spending time with her family while enjoying outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, skiing and taking road trips in the beautiful Pacific Northwest.

Reach Barri at bhorner@swwdc.org or 360.567.3171.

YouthBuild GED/Construction Skills Program Information Session April 21



YouthBuild Vancouver is holding an information session **Tuesday, April 21** for Clark County residents, ages 17-24, who have dropped out of high school and are interested in obtaining a GED and job skills.

The free session will be held 4-5:30 p.m. at Partners in Careers, 3210 NE 52nd Street, Vancouver 98663. **To register, contact Dave Cole at 360.696.8417 or dave@swwpic.org.**

Those enrolled in YouthBuild have the opportunity, at no cost, to:

- Obtain a GED or high school diploma
- Gain two construction certifications
- Participate in building a house for a family in need
- Receive job, college and career preparation services

Applications are being accepted now for the next group of students.

The first class is underway and SWWDC and our collaborators: Partners in Careers, Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, Vancouver Housing Authority and WorkSource would like to thank the many individuals and companies that have supported YouthBuild.

Since the program launched in February, individuals have volunteered more than 260 hours making presentations and leading workshops for the students. In-kind donations total more than \$4,000 and include school supplies, food, materials and t-shirts.

Special thanks to:

- Menucha Retreat Center – for all they did to make our Mental Toughness retreat a success
- Labor Works – for ongoing use of a van to transport students during field trips
- Vancouver Energy – for hard hats, safety glasses and vests (see photo above)

Learn more about YouthBuild and ways you can get involved at <http://swwdc.org/news-info/events.html>.

Like us on Facebook at **YouthBuild Vancouver**

Grow Clark County Launches April 22



Join CREDC, April 22 from 5-8 p.m. at the Heathman Lodge for the launch of **Grow Clark County!**

Kicking off with the *Vancouver Business Journal* Business Growth Awards, Grow Clark County will host 10 of our fastest growing and most pioneering startups. Showcasing products and business strategy, these rapidly emerging companies will be eligible for a \$1,000 prize awarded by votes from attendees based on originality of concept and product!

Purchase tickets today: <http://www.vbjusa.com/business-growth-awards/> and look for the startup showcase!

Read more about Grow Clark County at
<http://www.columbian.com/news/2015/apr/02/grow-clark-county-replaces-pubtalk/>

ESD 112 Workforce Development Specialist Job Opening

Under the direction of the Prevention & Youth Services Assistant Director, the Workforce Development Specialist provides services to participants in the Youth Workforce Program, including working with young adults with a range of disabilities.

For a detailed job description and online application instructions, visit <http://www.esd112.org/hropenings/>. Contact Joseph Mathews, ESD 112 Human Resources Department at 360.750.7503 or hr.dept@esd112.org. Position closes April 22.

Small Business Boot Camp

The Kelso Longview Chamber of Commerce is offering a six-session



Boardsmanship course beginning May 8. The series will help board members get up to speed on their responsibilities. Classes are held every Friday through June 12 from 7:30-9 a.m. in the Heritage Room at Lower Columbia College's Admin Building. Chamber members \$100 for the series (up to three people from your business can attend), non-members \$160. Register at www.kelsolongviewchamber.org or 360.423.8400.

Small Business Assistance Program



In partnership with the City of Vancouver, through a Community Development Block Grant, Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce (GVCC) business consultants provide eligible mid- to low-income business owners no-cost business counseling and technical assistance in myriad areas. Visit

GVCC's Business Resource Center at 1101 Broadway, Suite 100 in Vancouver or contact GVCC at 360.567.1051 or biz@vancouverusa.com.

Summer Science & Agriculture Programs for Middle & High School Students

The Cascade Mountain School, a project of the **Mt Adams Institute**, is offering



CASCADE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

summer programs for middle and high school students focused on field science and sustainable agriculture. Biking, rafting and backpacking accompany a curriculum of applied, hands-on science and natural resource management studies. High school science and college credits are available.

For more information, go to www.cascademountainschool.org or contact Executive Director, Emily Goodwin, at 503.358.1949 or Emily@cascademountainschool.org.

Nursing Camp for High Schoolers - Register by April 15



The University of Washington School of Nursing and UW Medical Center are recruiting underrepresented and minority high school sophomores and juniors to attend a free, weeklong day camp July 20-24. Students receive CPR training, clinical experiences and attend specialized sessions and workshops to prepare for college and the nursing profession. **Application deadline is April 15.** Learn more at <http://nursing.uw.edu/about/uw-nurse-camp>

National Mathematics Awareness Month – April



Celebrate the importance of mathematics with a poster from the Joint Policy Board for Mathematics, the sponsor of national Mathematics Awareness Month. This year's theme is *Math Drives Careers*.

Download the poster.

View American Mathematical Society's books, posters and podcasts at <http://www.ams.org/samplings/math-awareness-month/mam>.

National Education Association has K-12 lesson plans and activities <http://www.nea.org/tools/lessons/math-awareness-month.html>.

In the News

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

SWWDC, a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, is the Workforce Investment Board for Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. SWWDC connects funding, state agencies, local service providers, colleges, economic development 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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