



workforce

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Investing in employment and job training services for businesses, job seekers and youth in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.



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December 2016

Manufacturing Workforce Plan Available



Workforce Southwest Washington and its Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative partners have released the second regional Manufacturing Workforce Plan.

The two-year plan identifies goals and outlines strategies the public workforce system can deploy to support the manufacturing industry's workforce needs.

To learn more about workforce efforts around manufacturing, contact Cass Parker, Senior

Employer Services Manager, at cparker@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1076.

Click the link to view the [Manufacturing Workforce Plan](#).

Technology Employers Invited to Talent Pipeline Meeting on December 15

Technology employers are invited to join the industry workgroup that will be crafting a Talent Strategy Plan to address the technology industry's need for skilled workers.



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OTHER NEWS

Board Meeting

In November, the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative and the Technology Association of Oregon met with employers to begin putting together a plan to attract, develop and advance the region's technology talent.

The December 15 gathering will be 12-1:30 p.m. (lunch will be provided) at Worksystems, 1618 SW 1st Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97201.

To RSVP or for additional information, contact Senior Employer Services Manager, Cass Parker, at 360.567.1076 or cparker@workforcesw.org.

Construction Industry Meeting to Discuss Workforce Needs - January 19



Construction and related businesses are encouraged to join Workforce Southwest Washington and its Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative partners at a meeting to discuss the industry's workforce needs.

These industry meetings will help to develop a regional plan to address workforce challenges and identify opportunities in the construction industry. The resulting plan will guide the direction and investments of the public workforce system for the next several years.

The meeting will be held January 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at a location to be announced.

Contact Employer Services Manager, Melissa Boles, at mboles@workforcesw.org or 360.567.3185 for information.

Request for Proposals: Out-of-School Youth Services

Workforce Southwest Washington is seeking proposals for the delivery of services to out-of-school youth ages 16-24 in Clark,



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SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Dec. 14, 2016, 4-6 p.m.
Partners in Careers in
Vancouver [Click for
details](#)

Mission

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

Our Partners



Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I.

The purpose of this solicitation is to identify and fund organizations that will design innovative programming and comprehensive services to ensure Southwest Washington youth are prepared to serve as a skilled and qualified pipeline to fill local workforce demands.

Proposals will be accepted from any combination of private for-profit agency, state or local unit of government, nonprofit organization, business service organization or educational agency that can demonstrate the administrative capability to successfully provide the services identified in this RFP.

A bidder conference will be held Thursday, December 15 at the Port of Kalama.

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. Pacific Time on January 20, 2017.

To view the Request for Proposal (RFP), go to www.workforcesw.org, scroll down and click the "RFP" button in the bottom right corner of the home page.

\$1.4M in Workforce Training Fund Coming to Southwest Washington



Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) has been awarded \$1.415 million as part of an America's Promise grant from the Department of Labor.

The grant will fund training and job placement assistance to help approximately 200 individuals prepare for careers in health care or obtain skills to advance in their existing health care positions.

People of color, English-language learners, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, LGBT individuals and other populations facing barriers to employment will be a focus for the training resources.

"We're excited about the opportunity to serve diverse populations and support the health care industry in Southwest Washington," said Jeanne Bennett, WSW CEO. "Training a broad segment of the population will foster culturally-competent care in the region, contributing to positive patient outcomes."

The America's Promise grant is funded through fees paid by employers to bring foreign workers into the U.S. under the H-1B temporary visa program. These grants are intended to raise the



Comments/Questions?

Julia Maglione
Communications Manager
jmaglione@workforcesw.org

technical skill levels of American workers and, over time, help businesses reduce their reliance on temporary visa programs.

To learn more, contact Senior Employer Services Manager, Cass Parker, at cparker@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1076.

Youth Construction Program Slated for South Kelso

A new program set to launch in early 2017 will provide 12 disadvantaged youth who are not in school and are unemployed with the education, training, mentorship and hands-on construction experience needed to put them on track to enter the workforce.



The youth will rehabilitate four neglected homes in the South Kelso neighborhood and work on construction projects with Habitat for Humanity. They will receive a living wage and supportive services to help them overcome some of the barriers that have prevented them from obtaining employment.

A \$15,000 grant from Weyerhaeuser and funds provided by WSW and community partners will make the program possible and be used to pay for home assessments, purchase construction materials and supplies, and pay for wages and supportive services for the youth.

To learn more, contact Miriam Martin, Youth Initiatives Manager, at mmartin@workforcesw.org or 360.567.3183.

Tech and Manufacturing Training Fair December 15 at WorkSource in Vancouver



A free information fair about training to help unemployed and underemployed individuals get jobs in technology or manufacturing will be held at

WorkSource in Vancouver on December 15.

Job seekers from Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties are invited to attend to hear from employers about the skills and training they're seeking in new employees.

Representatives from education and training organizations, including Clark College, Lower Columbia College, New Horizons, Charter

College, Tech Academy, Soldering.biz and more, will discuss their programs.

Attendees can also learn about no-cost training programs, scholarships and free job and employment services offered at the WorkSource centers in Kelso and Vancouver.

The event will be held 1-4 p.m. on Thursday, December 15 at WorkSource, 204 SE Stonemill Drive, Suite 215, Vancouver 98684.

Job seekers should bring copies of their resume and dress in business casual attire.

For more information, contact WorkSource Career Coach, Jacob Miller, at jamiller@esd.wa.gov or 360.735.5084.

Job Opening: Office Assistant for WSW

Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) is seeking an Office Assistant to provide overall administrative support to staff and visitors in the course of daily interactions and on-site meetings. Support includes full responsibility for telephone and front desk reception along with light office environmental maintenance, event and travel assistance, and overall office operational facilitation. Three years' experience with professional office support. Technical or Associate degree preferred.

Apply through WorkSource by submitting your resume and cover letter. For details and the complete job description, go to www.worksourcewa.com and search for Job ID: 177427940 or Office Assistant WSW.

Update Email Addresses for Your Workforce Southwest Washington Contacts

At the end of December, the old Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council email addresses (@swwdc.org) will no longer work.

Please check your address books and contact lists to be sure any email addresses for Workforce Southwest Washington and SWWDC use "@workforcesw.org."

Staff email addresses are first initial followed by last name @workforcesw.org. For example, jmaglione@workforcesw.org.

Companies Sought for Industry Fair

Battle Ground Public Schools

Industry Fair



Thursday, February 23, 2017
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Battle Ground High School
300 W Main Street
Battle Ground, WA 98604

Reserve your table!
[Click here to sign up by February 15, 2017](#)

Host a table at the BGPS Industry Fair and help us educate young people about career opportunities in Southwest Washington!

We are seeking employers in and around Clark County from all industries: health care, manufacturing, technology, construction, finance, hospitality, retail, apprenticeship and transportation.

The event is geared toward students and community members.

Questions?
Contact Kevin Doyle
(360) 885-6598 or
doyle.kevin@battlegroundps.org

Sponsored by Battle Ground Public Schools, WorkSource and Partners in Careers



[Facebook.com/BattleGroundPS](https://www.facebook.com/BattleGroundPS)
[Facebook.com/WorkSourceSW](https://www.facebook.com/WorkSourceSW)
[Facebook.com/PartnersinCareers](https://www.facebook.com/PartnersinCareers)

The Battle Ground Public Schools provides equal opportunity in programs and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or marital status. This notice is provided for the purpose of notifying the public of the school's policy. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or marital status. This notice is provided for the purpose of notifying the public of the school's policy. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or marital status. This notice is provided for the purpose of notifying the public of the school's policy.

WorkSource is an equal opportunity partnership of organizations that provide employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to people with disabilities. Washington State Service 211.

Battle Ground Public Schools, WorkSource and Partners in Careers are teaming up to host an industry fair on February 23 to help students and the community learn about local jobs and career opportunities.

If your company would like to participate, [reserve your table by clicking here](#) or contact Kevin Doyle at 360.885.6598 or doyle.kevin@battlegroundps.org.

Meet Miriam Martin, Youth Initiatives Manager at Workforce Southwest Washington



An avid hiker and lover of the outdoors, Miriam Martin joined WSW in July to implement strategies for youth workforce development.

She manages and oversees WSW's contracts with Education Service District 112, Partners in Careers and Goodwill of the Olympics & Rainier Region. These organizations help young adults ages 16 to 24 that have dropped out of high school obtain their

diploma or GED and skills and training to obtain a job. Miriam also seeks partnership opportunities with community-based organizations that provide services to youth.

Before joining WSW, Miriam was the Intake Coordinator at Kinship House in Portland where she helped design and coordinate outpatient mental health treatment for foster care and adoptive families. While completing her master's in Social Work, she also completed an advanced practicum at the Oregon Public Health Institute that focused on facilitating community outreach and engagement with an emphasis on equity.

Miriam received her bachelor's degree as well as her master's degree in Social Work from Portland State University.

Companies interested in participating in youth workforce programs can contact Miriam at mmartin@workforcesw.org or 360.567.3183.

Photo credit: Aevum Images.

New program brings employment services into Clark County Jail

WSW, Clark County Sheriff's Office Reentry Program and WorkSource held a ribbon cutting on November 16 to launch a new program, Linking to Employment Activities Pre-release (LEAP).



The program will bring WorkSource services into the Clark County jail to help up to 100 incarcerated individuals learn the skills they need to get a job and reintegrate into the community after they are released.

WorkSource staff will provide case management, workshops and training at the jail. They'll also facilitate connections to additional services, such as housing, transportation, childcare, behavioral health services and more. After release, individuals will continue to receive employment and job training services at the WorkSource center.

By helping individuals obtain skills and find and maintain employment, the program aims to decrease the number of individuals who return to jail. The two-year pilot program is funded through a grant from the Department of Labor.

For information, contact Michelle McClannahan at WorkSource mmcclanahan@esd.wa.gov or 360.735.4956.

Photo courtesy of Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce.

WorkSource Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Ribbon Cutting



WorkSource Cowlitz-Wahkiakum held a ribbon cutting on October 13 in their new location - **Suite B** at 305 S. Pacific Avenue in Kelso.

The office is open Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. or call 360.577.2250.

Thank you, Mike Karnofski!

After serving more than 12 years on Workforce Southwest Washington's Board of Directors, Cowlitz County Commissioner Mike Karnofski will retire from the Board this month.

"Mike has been a champion for workforce development in Cowlitz County," said WSW CEO Jeanne Bennett. "His wit, support, dedication and caring will be greatly missed."



A new Cowlitz County Commissioner will join WSW's board in 2017.

Photo: Commissioner Karnofski saying a few words at the WorkSource Cowlitz-Wahkiakum open house. Photo courtesy of Mike Karnofski.

Companies Recognized for Hiring Veterans



YesVets, a statewide campaign, recognizes the commitment of businesses that hire veterans by providing a decal to display at their location.

Several Southwest Washington companies have enrolled in the program. Recently, Columbia Home Health & Hospice, KLTV and Columbia Machine received recognition.

Approximately 630,000 military veterans live in Washington State.

WorkSource centers have staff specifically assigned to help veterans find jobs, including disabled veterans. From July 2015 through June 2016, WorkSource centers across the state placed nearly 7,500 veterans into jobs.

Companies interested in hiring veterans can get help from Michael Benko at WorkSource. Reach him at mhenko@esd.wa.gov or 360.735.5015.

Photo: Columbia Machine (L-R) Winston Asai, CFO; veteran Charlie Villanueva; Michael Benko, WorkSource Veterans Employment Rep; veteran Daniel Carlberg; HR Manager Catherine Erickson.



Columbia Home Health & Hospice: (L-R) Colleen Paine, WorkSource Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Business Services Consultant; Michael Benko, WorkSource Veterans Employment Rep; Greg Pang, CEO; Robert Oliver, Navy veteran – Facility Maintenance Technician; Melissa Young, HR Manager.



KLTV: (L-R) Michael Benko, WorkSource Veterans Employment Rep; William E. Yeager III, Navy veteran – Remote Production; Barry Verrill, Executive Director.

Second YouthBuild House Under Construction

YouthBuild Vancouver students have been laying the foundation for the second house they are building in partnership with Evergreen Habitat for Humanity.

The four-bedroom home is located at McKibbin Commons in Vancouver and should be completed in 2017. More than 15 youth will have the opportunity to gain hands-on construction experience through this project.

YouthBuild Vancouver helps at-risk young people ages 16 to 24 obtain high school diplomas or GEDs and learn construction and other work-related skills.

YouthBuild is a collaboration between Workforce Southwest Washington, Partners in Careers, Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, Second Step Housing and WorkSource.

For additional information, contact YouthBuild Program Coordinator Andrew Westlund at andrew@swwpic.org or 360.696.8417 ext. 112.



YouthBuild students laying the foundation for the next house.



Building in the Pacific Northwest ... rain happens.

Clark College Accepting Applications for Six-week Nursing Assistant Course



Becoming a certified nursing assistant (CNA/NAC) could be an important first step to a rewarding career in health care.

The skills learned provide an excellent foundation with pathways for the future, such as specialty trainings in health services or even a degree in nursing.

Upcoming CNA/NAC classes are Jan. 17 – Feb. 24 (day) or Jan. 23 – Mar. 4 (evening) at Clark College's Columbia Tech Center campus.

Participant Requirements:

- 18-years of age or older; Running Start students are encouraged to apply (age 17 and older)
- High school diploma or GED recommended, but not required

Learn about the program at ecd.clark.edu/professional-development/nac.php or contact Patti Berglund, R.N. at pberglund@clark.edu or 360.903.8666.

To find out about if assistance is available to help pay for training:

- Contact the Clark College's WorkFirst office at 360.992.2915 or tpotter@clark.edu; or
- Attend a WorkSource information session Fridays at 1 p.m. at the Vancouver WorkSource or contact Michelle McClanahan at mmcclanahan@esd.wa.gov or 360.735.4956.

11-Week Program Explores Work in the Trades



CLARK COLLEGE
www.clark.edu/cc/trades

Pre-Apprenticeship Program

- ✦ Prepare to work in the trades in 11 weeks.
- ✦ Earn certifications in:
 - First Aid
 - Flagging
 - Occupational Health and Safety (OSHA 10).
- ✦ Learn the basics of each trade, and its working conditions and salaries.
- ✦ Resume and job interview skills help included.

Cost: \$25 + Clark application fee*
Who: Adults 18 and over
When: Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to noon
Where: Clark College Main Campus

* For financial aid help or to find out about fee waivers, call Transitional Studies at 360-992-2741

Clark College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, perceived or actual physical or mental disability, pregnancy, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, creed, religion, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or use of a trained guide dog or service animal in its programs and activities.

To learn more, contact Clark College's Transitional Studies office at 360.992.2741 or visit www.clark.edu/cc/trades.

Prepare for Work with Lower Columbia College's Professional-Technical Programs

LCC's professional-technical programs feature training and lab and field opportunities that lead to certificates and degrees designed to prepare people go to work in fields using technology, helping people and building or fixing things.



Learn more at <http://lowercolumbia.edu/go-to-work/index.php>.

Clark County Skills Center Becomes Cascadia Technical Academy



The Cascadia Technical Academy, formerly known as the Clark County Skills Center, began in 1983 to prepare students for the workforce by offering them the opportunity to be trained in technical career areas.

Programs include applied medical sciences, automotive technology, aviation technology, construction technology, cosmetology, criminal justice, culinary, dental, diesel technology, fashion, fire science, homeland security and more.

Cascadia Tech is owned and operated by nine local school districts and Educational Service District 112. Junior and senior students enrolled in member high schools are eligible to apply for admittance into a Cascadia Tech program free of charge through their high school counselor.

Learn more at <http://www.ccskillscenter.com/about-us.html>.

Business Goes Back to School



Business professionals spent time at Kelso High School during the Kelso Longview Chamber's Business Back 2 School event.

Attendees learned about Career and Technical Education programs, heard about changes in education and found out how our local schools are preparing students for the workforce.

See photos on the Chamber's Facebook page or [click here](#).

The next event is February 9 at Mark Morris High School. Space is limited and registration is required. Call the Chamber at 360.423.8400.

Save the Date: Clark College Professional Technical Day February 23



High school students interested in learning about technical education programs at Clark College are invited to Professional Technical Day on Thursday, February 23 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Programs may include: culinary; automotive; medical assisting, billing and coding; diesel technology; CISCO and Microsoft Administration; Information Technology; business technology; web development; welding; health occupations; machine technology and more.

Registration is requested and will be available in February on the college's website www.clark.edu. To learn more, contact Student Recruitment Specialist Hanna Maxwell at hmaxwell@clark.edu or 360.992.2312.

Workforce News

View media coverage, press releases and past newsletters at [Workforce News](#).

WorkSource Workshops

Clark County: 204 SE Stonemill Drive, Suite 215, Vancouver, WA 98684, 360.735.5000. [Click to view Clark County Workshops and Hiring Events.](#)

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum: 305 S. Pacific Avenue, Suite B, Kelso, WA 98626, 360.577.2250. [Click to view Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Workshops and Hiring Events.](#)

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 help businesses find and hire the employees they need and provide 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 and community organizations to provide employment and training services to businesses, job seekers and youth.

You're receiving this because of your interest in workforce development. WSW is an equal opportunity employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington relay: 711.

Workforce Southwest
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