



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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June 2017

A Message from the CEO

As you review this issue of the workforce newsletter, I hope you will read two articles that talk about public-private partnerships: one with NW Motor and Goodwill, the other among three construction companies and Clark College.



These collaborations where companies drive development of the training programs that will provide them skilled workers are the future of workforce development. Industry must be at the forefront of these efforts.

Only by working together can we ensure companies have the skilled workers they need and residents have the skills to fill available jobs.

Workforce Southwest Washington is ready to help develop and foster these partnerships. Our role is not only that of funding resource, but also facilitator and convener for workforce development activities throughout the region.

Businesses with unaddressed workforce training needs that want to be part of the solution are invited to begin the conversation and contact Senior Industry Initiatives Manager Cass Parker at cparker@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1076.

Best,
Jeanne Bennett, CEO, Workforce Southwest Washington

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OTHER NEWS

Board Meeting

June 14, 2017, 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 Business Representatives Sought for WSW Board

Workforce Southwest Washington is seeking Cowlitz business representatives to serve on its volunteer board of directors.



[View the nomination qualifications.](#)

New Training Program Will Ramp Up Availability of Manufacturing Technicians



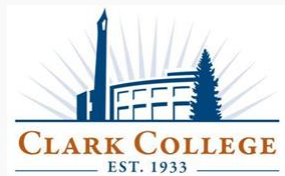
Starting this fall, manufacturers will have a new resource to grow and improve the skills of their technicians and job seekers will have a faster way to gain skills to enter the growing advanced manufacturing field – Clark College's Rural Access Mechatronics Program ([RAMP](#)) – which will train technicians in as little as six months.

Mechatronics technicians troubleshoot, maintain and repair mechanical equipment controlled by electrical, electronic and computer systems in manufacturing, technology and other fields.

Clark College's condensed program was developed to offer manufacturers the ability to quickly improve the skills of existing employees or new hires so they can move up in the company and, thus, open entry-level positions for job seekers.

Individuals in the program will gain skills for mechatronics jobs, such as maintenance technician, process technician, industrial controls technician and more. These skills are in high demand by employers.

Workforce Southwest, the Columbia River Economic Development Council, Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and WorkSource have collaborated with Clark College to promote the program.



Manufacturers interested in learning about potential funding to train existing employees or hire new employees can contact Darcy Hoffman at WorkSource dhoffman@esd.wa.gov or 360.735.5038.

To learn about workforce development programs for manufacturers, contact Cass Parker, Senior Industry Initiatives Manager, at Workforce Southwest Washington at cparker@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1076.

The program is made possible by grant NSF-ATE #1565577 from the National Science Foundation.

Long-term Care Companies Invited to July 25 Industry Meeting



The workforce Long-term Care panel will meet July 25, 10-11 a.m. to discuss the Core Value Index, a vetting process designed to tell employers if a CNA candidate is a good fit for the job.

Companies can also use the tool to determine strengths of existing employees and see how employees fit together. The goal is to enable long-term care companies to identify and hire staff that will be as effective as their current top-performing employees.

During the meeting, the Immigrant Nursing Credentialing Program (part of the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization) will also make a presentation.

To attend the meeting or learn more about workforce development programs for health care, contact Industry Initiatives Manager Melissa Boles at mboles@workforcesw.org or 360.567.3185.

Manufacturing Day in Southwest Washington is October 4 – Save the Date





Comments/Questions?

Julia Maglione
Communications Manager
jmaglione@workforcesw.org

Manufacturing Day is a great time to host an event or open house at your location to inspire the next generation to learn about career opportunities in manufacturing.

Meeting with you at your business will help youth learn about career pathways and hear from you about the skills and education they'll need to obtain jobs in your field.

Register your event at www.mfgday.com and get access to a variety of free tools and resources to make your event a success.

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

Meet Melissa Boles, Industry Initiatives Manager

Melissa focuses on the workforce recruitment, retention and training needs of the region's health care and construction industries.

In conjunction with the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC), comprised of WSW and the workforce development boards in Portland and Clackamas, she gathers information from employers, conducts industry research to identify job growth opportunities and determine where training or skills development may be needed to enable the workforce to meet the needs of business.



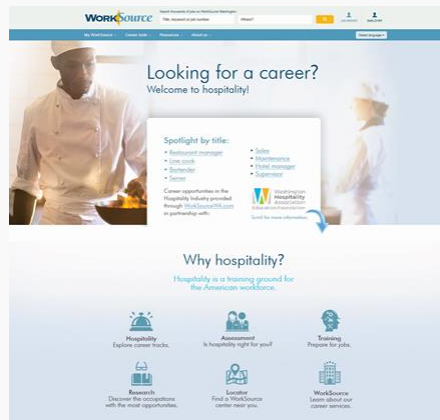
Melissa coordinates with economic development organizations, government departments, education and training partners and WorkSource to create strategies to help businesses recruit and retain a skilled workforce.

She has several years of experience working in higher education, most recently as an academic advisor at Clark College.

Melissa holds a Master of Education in College Student Personnel from Western Carolina University and a Bachelor of Arts in social sciences from Washington State University Vancouver. In her free time, she volunteers with community organizations.

Reach Melissa at 360.567.3185 or mboles@workforcesw.org.

Hospitality Industry Focus of New Page on WorkSourceWA.com



WorkSourceWA.com has a new webpage that helps individuals more readily find jobs in the hospitality industry.

The page includes information on salaries, required training and a "quick search" tool that sorts job openings by title.

Nearly a quarter million people are employed in hospitality in Washington State.

[Click here to view the new webpage.](#)

Training Program Developed through Public-Private Partnership Leads to Jobs

Goodwill and Northwest Motor Sales & Service (NWMS) recently completed a three-month Industrial Training pilot program designed to prepare young adults ages 18-24 for living wage jobs in the Cowlitz County area.

This new and unique program combines on-the-job training and mentorship with customized classroom instruction and case management support.

NWMS provides installation, servicing and maintenance of electric motors to pulp and paper mills, steel mills, marine, mining, power plants and other industries in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska.

Over the past few years, NWMS owner Spencer Wiggins had been unable to recruit residents with the skills required for the family-wage jobs he had available. When Tori Skinner from Goodwill approached him with the idea of training interns that could potentially turn into new employees, he agreed.

For the pilot program, NWMS selected three candidates, recruited and pre-screened by Goodwill, for a 10-week paid internship. Wages for the interns were paid under a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grant through Workforce Southwest Washington. Participants spent four days on the worksite under the mentorship of key NWMS personnel and Fridays at the Goodwill Work Opportunity Center in facilitated learning from a manual specific to the work they were being trained to perform.

The three interns completed more than 220 hours of on-the-job industrial experience including tool use, equipment operation, maintenance and repair, site safety, and industry-specific skill development; completed the 17-volume EASA Mechanical Repair Fundamentals internship curriculum; and earned certification in OSHA 10, Forklift and CPR/First Aid.

Upon completion of the training program, all three interns were hired by NWMS. Because of the success of this pilot, Goodwill and NWMS will provide this training three times a year.

Businesses interested in developing on-the-job training programs should contact Goodwill Business Development Manager Tori Skinner at VictoriaS@goodwillwa.org or 360.501.8359.



At an appreciation lunch on May 12, Goodwill and WSW honored NWMS for its commitment to championing training for next generation workers.

(l to r) Goodwill Business Development Manager Tori Skinner, Northwest Motor's owner Spencer Wiggins, Industrial Training Program intern Jessica White and WSW Cowlitz Wahkiakum Outreach Specialist Alyssa Joyner.



Spencer Wiggins teaches Industrial Training program interns about the various types, models and functions of electric motors during an interactive tour of Northwest Motor's warehouse.



Intern Jessica White assists with cleaning and maintenance of an electric motor.



Intern Tanner Willman works with NWMS's maintenance crew to reassemble an electric motor.

Businesses and Teens Connect at Youth Employment Summit

More than 200 teens and 50 companies participated in the Youth Employment Summit at the Clark County Event Center on May 23.

The teens participated in hands-on activities led by local companies to learn about industries, career pathways and required skills so they can make decisions about their future education and careers.

In the afternoon, the students had the option to apply for summer jobs or participate in mock interviews. Volunteers conducting the mock interviews included former Vancouver City Councilmember Larry Smith, Fort Vancouver National Trust President Mike True and individuals from Clark College and Leadership Clark County, among others. At the event, several students were hired for jobs at the Clark County Fair, Macy's, Fred Meyer and Wendy's.

Students were from the Battle Ground, La Center, Vancouver, Evergreen and Washougal school districts, the Washington State School for the Blind, Partners in Careers and the Boys & Girls Club.

The event was a collaboration between Workforce Southwest Washington, Partners in Careers, WorkSource, the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, Columbia River Economic Development Council, SW WA STEM Network and Boys & Girls Club.

To participate in next year's event, contact Youth Initiatives Manager Miriam Martin at mmartin@workforcesw.org or 360.567.3183.



Meeting with employers.



Learning about job openings by meeting with employers.



Exploring long-term care career pathways.



Former Vancouver City Councilmember Larry Smith (left) conducts a mock interview.

Second YouthBuild House Completed

The second house built by YouthBuild Vancouver participants for low-income families enrolled with Evergreen Habitat for Humanity was dedicated on May 18.

The family of five has moved into their new home in McKibbin Commons, a 10-home subdivision named after former Habitat Board President and community supporter John McKibbin.

YouthBuild helps at-risk young people ages 16 to 24 obtain high school diplomas or GEDs and learn construction and other work-related skills through academic trainings, on-site work experiences and community service activities.

Sixty-seven young adults are being served by the program. Many have completed GEDs and certifications and more than half have obtained jobs in fields including customer service, retail, food service, construction/remodeling, in-home caregiving, custodial and union placements.

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.



The Bautista-Reyes family receives keys to their new home.



Some of the YouthBuild team that built the new Evergreen Habitat for Humanity house.

Teachers Take Lessons Learned from Business Back to the Classroom



This summer, 10 teachers will be placed in externships at local businesses to learn about current practices in the subjects they teach. They'll incorporate what they learn into their curriculum to give their students the most current information.

Externships can have an immediate impact on student learning. During a marketing externship last year at Riverview Community Bank, a teacher learned new marketing techniques which she took back to her classroom. One of her students subsequently won a marketing competition and judges felt his presentation far exceeded the other students' work.

The externships are being funded by Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) through a YouthWorks grant.

YouthWorks, a career-readiness project to help youth prepare for living-wage careers is a collaboration between WSW, Partners in Careers and local school districts to provide internships, mentoring, job shadowing and other work-based learning experiences for youth.

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

Training Available for Technology and Manufacturing Jobs



Both WorkSource centers are holding information sessions for people who want to learn about training programs that can help them obtain skills to get jobs in technology, software, engineering or manufacturing.

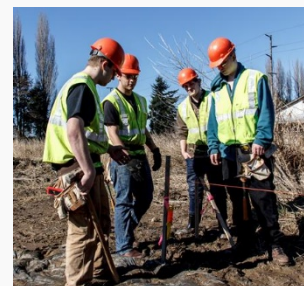
Individuals may attend a session at either center:

- **Kelso:** Mondays, 1:30-3 p.m., WorkSource, 305 S. Pacific Avenue, Suite B, Kelso. Contact Stacie Manley at smanley@esd.wa.gov or 360.578.4256.
- **Vancouver:** Thursdays, 1-2 p.m., WorkSource, 204 SE Stonemill Drive, Suite 215, Vancouver. Contact Jacob Miller at jamiller@esd.wa.gov or 360.735.5084.

Companies wanting assistance to hire and/or train employees can contact Darcy Hoffman, Regional Business Solutions Manager, at WorkSource at 360.735.5038 or dhoffman@esd.wa.gov.

Construction Training Pilot Program Meets Needs of Industry and Individuals

Working with three construction companies (Nutter, Tapani and Rotschy), Clark College's Economic & Community Development department recently completed the pilot of a construction recruiting, training and hiring program.



Candidates were recruited by WorkSource Vancouver and interviewed by the three companies. Selected candidates attended a training of Professional Skills (30-hours), Trade Math (20-hours) and Construction Trade topics (46-hours). WorkSource funded 50 percent of the training costs for eligible candidates and the three companies paid the rest.

The candidates were assigned a mentor at the company to encourage and help them during their training. Candidates that completed training and passed required tests were hired by the companies.

Clark is planning to offer the program again. Contact Francois Wevers at fwevers@clark.edu or 360.992.2466.

Construction companies interested in participating in workforce development opportunities should contact Industry Initiatives Manager Melissa Boles at mboles@workforcesw.org or 360.567.3185.

WorkSource Cowlitz/Wahkiakum Helps Veteran get on the Road to Success



Ron Kennedy has full-time employment and is on the road to self-sufficiency, thanks to assistance he received from the team at WorkSource Cowlitz/Wahkiakum.

When Ron went to WorkSource, he was having difficulty finding a permanent full-time job. He began working with Case Manager Sandra Schmaltz and the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program (DVOP) to develop a plan.

Ron took advantage of WorkSource workshops and services to prepare for applying and interviewing for jobs and developing soft skills.

With WorkSource's support, Ron obtained his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and was hired by a local trucking company.

Congratulations to Ron and WorkSource Cowlitz/Wahkiakum!

Visit WorkSource Cowlitz/Wahkiakum at 305 S. Pacific Avenue, Suite B, Kelso, WA 98626. Call 360-577-2250 or go online to www.WorkSourceWA.com.

Accounting Technician Job Opening at WSW

Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) is seeking a part-time Accounting Technician to work up to 20 hours per week. Applicants should have a high school diploma and at least one completed year of college-level accounting courses or comparable relevant work experience and strong Microsoft Office and Excel skills.

Applications will be accepted through June 15. To apply, go to www.WorkSourceWA.com and search for Job ID: 184366970 or "Accounting Technician WSW."

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.

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