



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 2018

A Message from the CEO

I often tell people that workforce development is a “team sport.” As with every team, there are leaders and followers, thinkers and doers. In the best teams, those positions are interchangeable between the players at different times and everyone steps up to fill the role needed in any situation.



During my 6½ years at Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), teamwork has been our key and abiding message. Without the hundreds of others working to improve businesses’ access to great workers and to prepare those workers for their next step in life, we could not have achieved our current success. These partners include higher education, the K-12 education system, labor organizations, economic development councils, business organizations and state agencies. I have been fortunate to work with dedicated and involved partners at every turn. These partners make workforce development tick.

There are 12 amazing people employed at WSW and they endeavor to solve the sticky problems of ensuring that employers can find qualified workers. My team researches, studies, analyzes, plans and executes every day. They promote solutions. I love hearing them say “I have an idea.” I have been incredibly privileged to work with Amy Gimlin, Alyssa Joyner, Traci Williams, Susan Pagel, Melissa Boles, Cass Parker, Julia Maglione, Kevin Perkey, Miriam Martin, Barri Horner, Kathy Ashley and Linda Czech and many others who’ve passed through our doors. These people make work joyful!

Fortunate nonprofits have a dedicated and engaged Board of Directors. Workforce Southwest Washington has 30 people who serve as board members, advisors, cheerleaders and idea generators. We could not function without this group of passionate community activists. One in particular, John Vanderkin, deserves high praise and gratitude for his unwavering commitment to WSW. John has served as our Board Chair for five years. During that time,

- [Summer is a Great Time for Learning](#)
- [Partner Collaboration Aids Student's Success](#)
- [WorkSource Vancouver Hiring Events 2nd & 4th Wednesdays](#)
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OTHER NEWS

Board Meeting - June

June 13, 2018

4-6 p.m.

Partners in Careers

[Click for details.](#)

Board Meeting - September

September 12, 2018

4-6 p.m.

Lower Columbia College

[Click for details.](#)

Mission

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

Our Partners



he has guided us to better outcomes and balanced funding and supported intentional approaches to sector engagement. John, and all of our board members, have made my work sing!

As I leave this position and organization, I am filled with gratitude for my team members – from partners and staff to board members and elected officials. You are the key team members who make our community a wonderful place to work and live.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. See you around.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Bennett, CEO

Finding Talent Workshops June 21 and 28



Find talent where you haven't been looking!

Join Workforce Southwest Washington at our "Finding Talent in a Tight Labor Market" workshop for business.

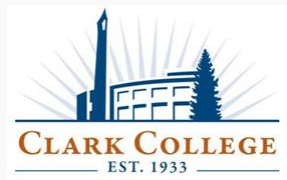
Some of the things we'll cover, include:

- Benefits of diversifying workforce
- Dispel myths of working with non-traditional candidates
- First-hand employer/employee experiences
- ROI/Social ROI of working with a diverse workforce
- How a culture of inclusivity plays a role in building a stable workforce

There is no cost to attend. Registration is required.

The June 21 event will take place 7:45-9:30 a.m. at the Cowlitz County Event Center, 1900 7th Avenue in Longview. [Click here to register for the Cowlitz event.](#)

The June 28 workshop is 7:45-9:30 a.m. at CoLab CoWorking – The Collective, 810 Main Street in downtown Vancouver. [Click here to register for the Vancouver event.](#)



Future workshops are:

- August – Tips & tricks for retaining great workers
- October – When your best workers retire ... what do you do now?

To see all Workforce events, go to www.evenbrite.com and search for "Workforce Southwest."

For information about workforce development programs for business, contact Cass Parker at cparker@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1076.

Construction Panel Quarterly Meeting July 31



The next quarterly meeting of the workforce construction industry panel will be held on Tuesday, July 31, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

To RSVP or for more information on workforce programs for construction, contact Melissa Boles at mboles@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1085.

Tech Employers Invited to Share Workforce Challenges and Insights



WSW is seeking tech leaders and representatives of companies that employ large numbers of individuals in technology-related occupations to participate in an industry panel to identify Southwest Washington's tech workforce needs.

Prior discussions aided in creation of the [Tech Talent Workforce Plan](#).

For more information about workforce and tech, contact Cass Parker, Senior Industry Initiatives Manager, at 360.567.1076 or cparker@workforcesw.org.



Comments/Questions?

Julia Maglione
Communications Manager
jmaglione@workforcesw.org

Follow us on Twitter

[@WorkforceSWWA](https://twitter.com/WorkforceSWWA)



Manufacturing Workforce Plan



Technology Labor Market Report Available

WSW and its partners in the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC) have released an updated **Technology Labor Market Report** that provides data on both the Software/IT industry and technology occupations.



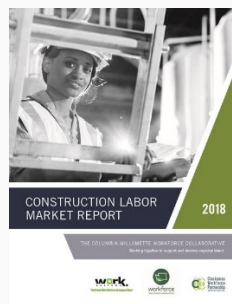
Software/IT is unique in that three-fourths of technology occupations are outside of the industry, which means there are more software developers, network administrators and data analysts working for hospitals, school districts and financial institutions than there are working for tech companies. Consequently, the report provides data on both the Software/IT industry and technology occupations.

Since the 2016 report (which included data from 2013-2015), growth in the Software/IT industry has continued to climb, reaching 26,500 individuals as of 2017. While the overall economy is expected to grow at 13 percent over the next decade, the Software/IT industry is expected to double that pace at a rate of 25 percent, adding 6,500 jobs. Technology occupations will grow 18 percent, adding 8,300 jobs.

[Click to view the report](#) and see additional data.

To join the Tech Industry workforce panel or learn about programs and services for Tech, contact Cass Parker at **cparker@workforcesw.org** or 360.567.1076.

Construction Growth Outpacing Other Industries, Says New Report



The **Construction Labor Market Report** recently released by WSW and its Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC) partners contains a wealth of information about the region's construction industry.

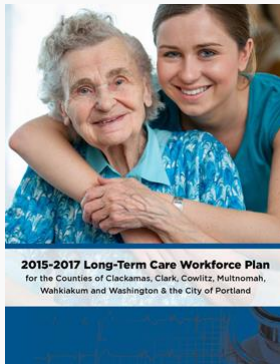
Since the report in 2016 (which included data from 2013-2015), construction has added more than 12,000 jobs, outpacing other fast-growing industries like health care and retail trade.

The growth in 2016 and 2017 has spurred construction employment past pre-recession levels and the industry is expected to add more than 11,000 jobs over the next decade, a growth rate of 17 percent.

Construction Workforce Plan



Tech Workforce Plan



Long-term Care Workforce Plan

[Click here to view the report](#) and additional data.

To learn about workforce programs and services for the construction industry, contact Melissa Boles at mboles@workforcesw.org or 360.567.3185.

State of Cowlitz County Meeting is June 28

State of Cowlitz County

Quarterly Meeting
Cowlitz County Event Center
1900 7th Ave. Longview WA
Thursday, June 28, 2018
11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Arne Mortensen

Commissioner Dennis Weber

Commissioner Joe Gardner

You are invited to attend the Kelso Longview Chamber's 2nd Quarterly Membership Meeting. Please join us as we hear from our county commissioners about everything from the budget, to parks, to personnel challenges, to the manufacturing businesses that are still trying to making Cowlitz County home and I am sure the county landfill will be a topic that will be addressed.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

\$25 in advance/\$35 at door
(Price includes lunch buffet)
Register at www.kelsolongviewchamber.org

The State of Cowlitz County quarterly meeting is Thursday, June 28. Hear the County Commissioners talk budget, parks, personnel, manufacturing businesses and more!

Cost is \$25 in advance and includes a lunch buffet. Pay at the door is \$35. [Click here to register.](#)

Leadership Training: October 18 & 25 + November 1 & 8

With May's four-part series of "Develop Your Leadership Skills" sold out, join Clark College Economic & Community Development Thursday mornings in October and November for a similar series.

The recent series included classes on how to communicate effectively and how to create high-performance teams.

Learn more and secure your seat today—contact Francois Wevers at fwevers@clark.edu or at 360.992.2466.



Center for Advanced Manufacturing to Boost Regional Innovation



Several WSW staff recently toured the [Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center](#) (OMIC) to learn about this metals manufacturing industry collaborative that will bring together industry, higher education and government in partnership to develop new tools, technique and technologies to address manufacturing industry challenges and provide research and workforce training that will benefit Oregon and Southwest Washington businesses and job seekers.

Photo (left to right): Marc Goldberg (Portland Community College), Andrew McGough (Worksystems), Chris Holden (Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center), Patrick Gihring (Worksystems), Bridget Dazey (Clackamas Workforce Partnership), Kevin Perkey (WSW), Cass Parker (WSW), Heather DeSart (Northwest Oregon Works), Amy Oakley (Clackamas Workforce Partnership)

WSW Seeking Program Manager



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

WSW is seeking an outstanding candidate to join our stellar team as a Program Manager.

[Click here for the job description and directions on how to apply.](#)

The **Program Manager** is focused on employment and training services contract management and development, grant administration, and creative networking to continually enhance and broaden the reach of workforce development programs.

To learn more about WSW, visit **www.workforcesw.org**.

Companies Can Connect with Experienced Camas Mill Workers Facing Layoffs

Companies in need of experienced process engineers, instrumentation technicians, training managers, millwrights, pipefitters, maintenance planners, production operators, electricians, engineers, quality control inspectors, inventory control and more should contact Darcy Hoffman at WorkSource at **dhoffman@esd.wa.gov** or 360.735.5038 to learn about opportunities to interview some of the more than 200 Georgia-Pacific mill workers facing layoffs.

Camas Mill workers facing layoffs, are encouraged to contact John LeMarte at 360.735.5060 or **jlemarte@esd.wa.gov** or go to WorkSource, 204 SE Stonemill Drive, Suite 215, Vancouver 98684 to get information on companies with job openings, Trade Act and unemployment benefits, and assistance with skills assessments, resume writing, interviewing, training, job placement and more.

Job seekers can create an account on **www.WorkSourceWA.com**, post their resume or create one, gain exposure to employers that have job openings and see training and workshop information.

Washington Workforce Conference is November 6-7

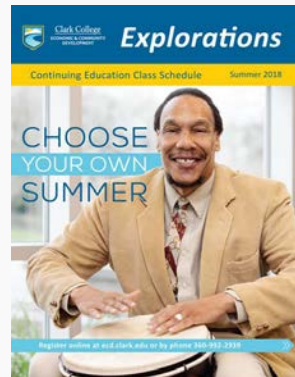
Save the date! The Washington Workforce Conference will take place November 6 and 7 at the DoubleTree Hotel, 18740 Pacific Highway South in Seattle.



Early Bird registration (on or before 10/5/18) is \$495. Regular registration (after 10/5/18) is \$545. Registration includes all educational sessions and meals.

[Check the website](#) for additional conference and hotel information or contact WWA at 360.867.8817 or **Info@WashingtonWorkforce.org**.

Summer is a Great Time for Learning



From Python Programming to Improv Skills for Confident Speaking to an advanced Social Media for Business class—explore all of the exciting summer classes designed to meet your professional goals!

Registration for Clark College Economic & Community Development's summer classes is open!

[View the schedule](#). Questions? 360.992.2939.

Partner Collaboration Aids Student's Success



Austen Huffman's journey demonstrates the value of wrap-around services and collaboration between programs.

Austen initially came to the Goodwill Work Opportunity Center in Longview to obtain his GED within the Open Doors Youth Reengagement Program." After a referral from Discovery High School," Austen commented, "they helped me with everything I needed.

They set me up for success by giving me the tools and education I needed."

In the classroom, Austen gained access to instruction, tutoring and self-paced study with help of staff and an AmeriCorps member. After obtaining his GED, Austen attended a Goodwill Employment Workshop where he learned soft skills, digital literacy, developed his first resume, and participated in mock interviews.

Austen began a technology work experience, funded by Workforce Southwest Washington, with the City of Longview. Pairing occupational development with education, Austen began studying computer repair and technical support. During his work experience, he passed the exams for CompTIA A+ and became certified by the Computing Technology Industry Association. Following his work

experience, Austen applied at Lower Columbia College, aiming to pursue a degree in computer science.

Thanks to the efforts of various programs and agencies, Austen was able to meet all of his educational and occupational goals under one roof. "This program is criminally underrated," Austen remarked. "I couldn't recommend it more and I had an utmost positive experience with it."

For more details and information regarding this program and other offerings, contact Goodwill at 360.501.8340 or Navigators@goodwillwa.org or stop by the Goodwill Work Opportunity Center, 1030 15th Ave., Suite 300 in Longview.

WorkSource Vancouver Hiring Events 2nd & 4th Wednesdays



Job seekers can interview for positions with a variety of companies at upcoming hiring events at WorkSource in Vancouver.

The events take place 10 a.m. to noon at WorkSource, 204 SE Stonemill Drive, Suite 215, Vancouver, WA 98684 on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month.

Job seekers should bring copies of their resume and dress for an interview.

Free workshops on resume writing, interviewing skills and other topics are held at the WorkSource centers.

- [Vancouver workshops calendar](#)
- [Kelso workshops calendar](#)

Manufacturers hire next generation

More than 15 manufacturers met with 60 high school seniors and young adults at a manufacturing hiring event at WorkSource in Vancouver on May 24.

Students were from school districts in Battle Ground, Vancouver, Evergreen, Ridgefield and La Center.

The event was a collaboration between WorkSource, SW Washington Stem Network and Partners in Careers. SEH America and Evergreen School District were represented in planning meetings.

Schools or teachers interested in learning more about these events should reach out to Josh Jones at Partners in Careers at 360.696.8417 Ext 113 or josh@swwpic.org.

Businesses should contact John LeMarte at WorkSource at 360.735.5060 or jlemarte@esd.wa.gov.



Teaching Artist Sought for Kelso Youth Mural Project

Urban Artworks is overseeing the youth mural project WSW is funding and is seeking a teaching artist for five weeks, starting August 27, to curate a mural with youth in the Southwest Kelso/Longview area.

The artist will work with approximately five youth over the course of five weeks.



[Click to view the job description](#) and email resumes to Paulina Cholewinski at lina@urbanartworks.org.

Photo by RhondaK Native Florida Folk Artist on Unsplash

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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