



# 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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## October 2018

### Companies Wanted for Youth Career/Hiring Fair

WSW and WorkSource are seeking businesses to participate in the 3rd Annual Youth Employment Summit (YES) on March 19, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Clark County Event Center.



At the most recent YES event, 40 organizations came together with 600 students, ages 16-24, to discuss job possibilities. [Click here to view a KOIN-TV story about the event.](#)

Goals of the event are to:

- Introduce the next generation to companies and opportunities in construction, manufacturing, healthcare, technology, and apprenticeship programs
- Help participants, especially teenagers, get hired for their first jobs

Companies in the key industries, apprenticeship training programs, and businesses in any industry that can and will hire teenagers are encouraged to participate. Registration includes a display table and entrance for two employer representatives.

The event is a collaboration between Workforce Southwest Washington, Partners in Careers, WorkSource, Lakeside Industries, LiUNA, Northwest Laborers Training, WA State Department of Transportation, Columbia River Economic Development Council, ESD112 and the Boys & Girls Club.

Companies interested in participating should contact Marnie Farness at WorkSource at [mfarness@esd.wa.gov](mailto:mfarness@esd.wa.gov).

[from Columbia River Logistics](#)

- [Hiring Events 2nd & 4th Wednesdays](#)
- [Workforce News](#)
- [WorkSource Workshops](#)

## OTHER NEWS

### Board Meeting - September

**December 12, 2018**  
4-6 p.m.  
Partners in Careers

[Click for details.](#)

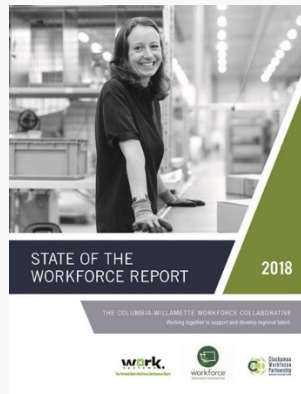
### Mission

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

### Our Partners



## Report Provides Insight into Region's Workforce



The region's economy has improved. There are two online job postings each month for every unemployed worker. In 2016, there were two unemployed workers for every online job opening.

You'll find this information and more in the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative's (CWWC) [State of the Workforce Report](#), recently released by WSW and its partners.

The report provides information about the quality of the region's workforce and some of the challenges and opportunities facing businesses and job seekers.

The report will help the workforce system understand the balance between workforce supply and industry demand to ensure workforce development efforts are aligned with the needs of the regional economy.

A few additional findings:

- More than one-fifth of the workforce is over age 55 and will retire within the next decade.
- The population of people of color grew twice as fast as the overall population, from 12.3 percent in 2000 to 15.7 percent in 2016.
- Youth unemployment remains high; but has decreased to 10.5 percent.

## Monte Constable joins WSW Board

Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) welcomes Monte Constable, Community Services Office Administrator with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to its board of directors. He will serve a three-year term.

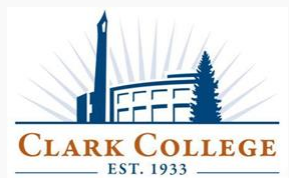


The workforce board includes representatives of private businesses, education, organized labor, local governments, community-based and nonprofit organizations, state agencies and economic development councils.

[Click to see a list of WSW Board members.](#)



## Tech Tour Connects Businesses & Job Seekers



More than 160 job seekers, tech enthusiasts and students interested in learning about Clark County's growing tech community and job opportunities participated in the second annual Vancouver Tech Tour on Tuesday, September 18.

Fourteen tech companies opened the doors of their downtown offices or had representatives stationed in downtown coffee houses, brew pubs and restaurants.

Individuals (called "tourists") toured through downtown Vancouver to find out what technology companies are working on, experience their company culture, network and learn about job openings.

The Vancouver Tech Tours is a program of the Technology Association and is hosted in collaboration with Workforce Southwest Washington, VanTechy, Columbia River Economic Development Council and North Bank Innovations.

[Click to read more.](#)



Ryd provided free shuttle service



Checking in at DiscoverOrg



Networking with ForgeRock



After Party

Comments/Questions?



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Plan](#)



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Plan](#)



## Next: Youth Center Filling Community Needs



It was a full house at the Next ribbon cutting on October 11. More than 100 community members, elected officials, partners, Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce ambassadors, friends and family toured the new youth career center and met the team.

Awards were presented to some of Next's founding members. Founders are: Jeanne Bennett, former CEO of WSW; Carl Cecka with Goodwill of the Olympics and Rainier Region; Kevin Johnson with ESD112; Deb Drandoff with ESD112; Rich Nannini with Job Corps; Sharon Pesut with Partners in Careers, and Dave Cole with WorkSource.

To see the festivities and take a virtual tour of Next, [view this video created by ClarkCountyToday.com](#). Thank you, ClarkCountyToday.com for making the video!

Since Next opened in August, an average of 24 youth per day have visited. Two of the main reasons they are coming in are: (1) to meet with an education development specialist about completing or continuing their education, and (2) to learn about jobs and training from the talent development specialists.

Learn more about Next at [www.nextsuccess.org](http://www.nextsuccess.org).



Enjoying the ribbon cutting  
celebration and networking at  
Next



(l to r) Next founding members:  
Kevin Johnson (ESD112), Dave  
Cole (WorkSource), Carl Cecka  
(Goodwill Olympics & Rainier  
Region), Jeanne Bennett, former  
WSW CEO



Healthcare Workforce  
Plan

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## Next Supporter Spotlight: Pacific Premier Bank



At Next, partners help young adults ages 16-24 get set up for success by providing the support and training they need to create the future they want—all in one place.

Next provides a safe space where young adults can connect and socialize, get something to eat, and get the education and career help they need to increase their competitiveness for in-demand careers.

For Next young adults, early access to economic opportunity is critical — 43 percent of Americans raised at the bottom of the income ladder remain stuck there as adults. This lack of mobility threatens to limit the options available for young people and puts a drag on the nation's economic growth as millions of jobs remain vacant because employers cannot find skilled workers.

When it comes to the next generation's financial health, everyone has a part to play, as well as a vested interest in seeing that young adults make sound financial decisions at an early age. Pacific Premier Bank understands this and has generously invested in Next to ensure that all young adults have access to fiscal literacy classes so they can gain the skills and knowledge to make informed and effective financial decisions and have a strong economic future.

At Next, partners work together toward one shared goal: the success of each young person that walks through the door. We do a better job, together. A huge "Thank You" to Pacific Premier Bank for committing to this goal and partnering with Next!

Interested in investing in your future talent pipeline? Contact Miriam Martin at [mmartin@workforcesw.org](mailto:mmartin@workforcesw.org) or 360.567.3183.

Photo: Terra Beckman works on her STARS training at Next.

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## Companies Benefit from Youth Internships



Having individuals gain work experience at a young age is beneficial for them, local businesses and our community.

Work experience contributes to higher graduation rates, better future employment prospects and increased earnings later in life.

Beginning this fall, high school students in Southwest Washington will have an opportunity to participate in paid internships through programs funded by Workforce Southwest Washington.

Through 90-hour paid internships, students ages 16-18 will have the opportunity to earn money, gain valuable work experience and develop soft skills to help them become ready for a job, additional training or college.

For assistance hiring young adults for part-time or summer jobs, contact Benton Waterous at [bwaterous@workforcesw.org](mailto:bwaterous@workforcesw.org).

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## Meet Narek Daniyelyan

As Director of Strategic Initiatives, Narek develops, implements and administers operations within WSW's administrative office and the area's WorkSource centers.

He ensures the local public workforce system is in compliance with federal legislation by managing and coordinating WorkSource partnerships and system integration. He also works to develop new partnerships that continually enhance and broaden the reach of workforce development efforts. Narek strategically coordinates with WSW's team and its partners to position WSW's investments for success and sustainability.



Prior to joining WSW, Narek was the Educational Partnership Manager at Clark College. He managed numerous programs including State Registered Apprenticeships, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Dual Credit, and College in the High School. In this position, he worked to align programs with state legislation and Clark College's academic plan. In addition to managing program contracts, he worked with students within those programs to ensure they were successful throughout their academic journey.

Narek has held positions as a Recruitment Specialist at Clark College and a Lead Staff Member at the City of Vancouver Parks and Recreation.

He is excited to defend his research thesis in spring 2019 to complete a Master's Degree in Public Affairs at Washington State University, where he also received a Bachelor of Arts in Human Development. During his graduate studies, Governor Jay Inslee appointed Narek to the Washington State University Board of Regents where he was the first-ever student from the Vancouver campus to serve in that role.

In his free time, Narek enjoys snowboarding, backpacking and watching The Office. Reach him at [ndaniyelyan@workforcesw.org](mailto:ndaniyelyan@workforcesw.org).

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## Youth Gain Work Skills through Mural Creation



The new downtown Kelso mural, created by local youth, was celebrated at a ribbon cutting with the Kelso Longview Chamber and community on October 25.

Development of the mural was an investment in Kelso and Longview youth through a paid work experience. The youth learn about their local history and art during field trips to the Cowlitz Historical Museum and through visits by local government officials. The fun and interactive four-week program gave them the opportunity to gain communications, leadership, and teamwork skills that will be valuable as they seek employment.

The project was a collaboration between the City of Kelso, Workforce Southwest Washington, Cowlitz Economic Development Council, Goodwill of Olympics and Rainier Region, Educational Service District 112, Urban Artworks, and The Honorable Frank L. and Arlene G. Price Foundation.

Many others also played a role in making the project a success, among them, Ray Pyle, owner of Catlin Properties, who graciously allowed the students and artist to use his equipment and facilities for storage.

A special thank you to the artist, Forest Wolf Kell, for his assistance and instruction in helping the young adults represent their interpretation of the City of Kelso and realize their vision for the mural. The youth were the guiding force behind the symbolism and themes and Forest translated their ideas into a composition.

**[Read about the symbolism behind the mural.](#)**

To learn more, contact Alyssa Joyner at [ajoyner@workforcesw.org](mailto:ajoyner@workforcesw.org) or 503.410.0408.





The wall has been prepped



Mural painting begins



At the ribbon cutting (l to r) Kelso City Council Member Mike Karnofski, Alyssa Joyner (WSW), Paulina Cholewinski (Urban Artworks), the artist Forest Wolf Kell, student painter Derek Ball.



Kelso City Council Member Mike Karnofski speaks during the ribbon cutting

## Manufacturers Meet with Next Generation

With thousands of baby boomers set to retire in the next decade, manufacturers are making efforts to connect with the next generation of workers.

Several companies, including [Columbia Machine](#), [Graphic Packaging](#), [Kyocera](#), [SEH America](#) and [Silicon Forest Electronics](#) participated in the annual Manufacturing Day celebration. More than 225 students from Camas, Evergreen, Kalama, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver and Washougal school districts attended.

The event included hands-on experiences, tours of Clark College's machining and welding programs and a panel of speakers discussing



how they got started and the fulfilling and lucrative work they do every day.

To learn more about Manufacturing Day, contact Melissa Boles at [mboles@workforcesw.org](mailto:mboles@workforcesw.org).

Photos courtesy of Evergreen Public Schools CTE



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## LCC Event Explores Careers in Manufacturing

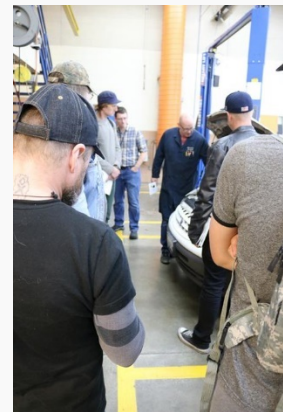
On October 4, Lower Columbia College (LCC) Corporate & Continuing Education hosted an Open House for its manufacturing-related programs.

The evening was filled with tours and activities in the advanced manufacturing, automotive, diesel technology, information technology, machine trades, and welding technology labs.

More than 50 participants got a taste of what the LCC programs deliver in skills training and hands-on workforce development.

Visitors tried their hands at pneumatic controls and electrical circuitry as well as basic welding and setting up a CNC machine. They enjoyed refreshments while networking with faculty and LCC students.

This event could not have happened without the generous support of sponsors! Thank you to American Workforce Group, Cascade



Natural Gas, Columbia River Carbonates, Cowlitz Economic Development Council, and Workforce Southwest Washington.



## Manufacturing Tools and Resources for Youth and Adult Job Seekers



October is Careers in Manufacturing Month in Washington State. Learn about some Southwest Washington manufacturing companies and the great opportunities for jobs and advancement in this [video from WSW](#).

Thank you to the participating companies [Columbia Machine](#), [Silicon Forest Electronics](#), [Elkhart Plastics](#) and [Columbia Precast Products](#).

Companies in our region make everything from potato chips to computer chips. A wave of retiring workers means there are numerous job openings. Explore manufacturing job opportunities and training resources at [www.careersnw.org/manufacturing](http://www.careersnw.org/manufacturing).

To learn about workforce programs and services for the manufacturing industry, contact Darcy Hoffman at [dhoffman@workforcesw.org](mailto:dhoffman@workforcesw.org) or 360.567.3172.

## Free Job Training & Financial Assistance for Workers Laid-off from Columbia River Logistics

Columbia River Logistics workers who were laid off may be eligible for free training for a new occupation, financial assistance and other benefits. Leased workers may also be eligible.



WorkSource in Vancouver is holding an informational meeting on November 7 for workers who believe they are eligible. The meeting is

10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at WorkSource, 204 SE Stonemill Drive, Suite 215, Vancouver 98684.

The U.S. Department of Labor approved benefits for workers who lost their jobs due to a lack of work on or after May 17, 2017. These workers may receive vocational training, additional unemployment benefits, relocation expenses, reimbursement for an out-of-area job search and the federal Health Coverage Tax Credit. Older workers may receive a subsidy that covers the difference in wages earned at the time of separation and those earned in re-employment.

Contact Clarencia Gaines at WorkSource at [cgaines@esd.wa.gov](mailto:cgaines@esd.wa.gov) or 360.735.5008.

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## Hiring Events 2nd & 4th Wednesdays



A proud partner of the [americanjobcenter](#) network

Job seekers can interview for positions with a variety of companies at 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 (except holidays).

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](#)

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## Workforce News

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

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## 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](#).



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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.

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You are receiving this because of your interest in workforce development. WSW is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay 711.

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