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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**November 16 Event Scheduled to Assist Unemployed Engineers**

**Vancouver, WA** – Space is still available for the Engineering Employment Symposium on Monday at the Vancouver Hilton from 7:30 am – 2:00 pm. More than 200 engineers looking to better position themselves to find jobs or start their own company are expected to attend. The event is aimed at providing information and resources to engineers in transition so that they can successfully find employment in this tough economy.

Sponsored by regional workforce partners Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council, Worksystems, Inc., MTC Works, Workforce Investment Council of Clackamas County, and Enterprise for Employment & Education, the event offers expertise and counsel from more than two dozen industry and education representatives, entrepreneurs, and top level career coaching and talent management professionals on topics related to education and training, entrepreneurship, and job search strategies and skills. Aspiring entrepreneurs will have the chance to vet their ideas with experts from the Oregon Entrepreneur Network to get feedback on their potential viability.

“These engineers represent a huge talent pool for our region. It is important to us that we retain this talent in our region and do what we can to help them get back into the workforce quickly. The goal of these events is to help these engineering professionals retool, reinvent, and find employment, and ultimately remain within our community to provide our local employers with the talent they need to be competitive,” said Lisa Nisenfeld, Executive Director of the SW Washington Workforce Development Council.

More than 300 engineers from Oregon and Southwest Washington, the majority of whom are unemployed and looking for work or wanting to start their own business, attended a similar event held Thursday in Tigard. Well-attended sessions, engaging dialogue, and rave reviews by attendees indicated that the attendees took away valuable information, tools, and perspectives. Many attendees have already signed up for the Vancouver event so that they can learn even more.

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“It was a really valuable event,” said Mark Simpson, a civil engineer who has been looking for work for a year and who attended Thursday’s Symposium. “I got some excellent advice on about what I need to do to stand out in this competitive market and some inspiration to be optimistic about my next career opportunity. I will definitely put to use what I learned today as I prepare for several upcoming interviews.”

Vancouver’s session topics include: Careers and Occupations-What’s Hot and What’s Not; Skills and Credentials to Make Yourself More Valuable; Real Life Career Transitions of Engineers Who Have Been There; How to Start Your Own Business, How to Create a Start-Up, Innovation Resources, Start-Up Stories from nLight;, and Job Search Tips and Techniques including Interviewing, Retooling Your Resume, Marketing Yourself, and Effective Networking and Use of Social Media.

Speakers include: Aubrie Abbott, Lee Hecht Harrison; Tina Barsotti, Clark College; Rod Cox, Lee Hecht Harrison; Manlio Castillo Rios, WorkSource; Lee Cheatham, Washington Technology Center; Sean Harry, Career Management Solutions; Bill Huseby, Sigma Design; Scott Keeney, nLight; Keith McPhun, nLight; Bob Menzia, City of Longview Public Works; Anthony Miller, Stepping Stone Solutions; Steve Morris, Open Technology Business Center; Matt Nees, Software Association of Oregon; Melissa Perez, Kelly Engineering; Connie Plowman, Cadence Management Corp; Marv Serhan, Association of Energy Engineers; John Tortorici, Oregon BioScience Association; Joshua Waldron, Career Enlightenment. Steven Fulmer, a human strategist and former software company executive who helps individuals and organizations understand and capitalize on human potential by overcoming obstacles and fears to achieve success and happiness, will serve as the keynote speaker.

**For a detailed agenda and speaker bios or to register, visit [www.swwdc.org](http://www.swwdc.org) or call 360-567-1070.**

### **About the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council**

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (Swwdc) provides leadership and resources to increase economic development by providing a trained and productive workforce in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum Counties. Led by a diverse board of representatives from business, labor, community-based organizations and government agencies, the Swwdc responds to the unique needs of SW Washington. For more information, visit [www.swwdc.org](http://www.swwdc.org).

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