

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Engineering Firms Sought for Business After School Program Business Applications Due January 21

VANCOUVER, Wash. (January 8, 2015) – Many industries will face labor shortages in the near future as long-time employees retire and industry growth outpaces trained workers. Bridging this gap is critical and why Southwest Washington's workforce development council, chambers of commerce, economic development agencies and higher education have created Business After School to help high school-aged youth learn about and explore high-growth industries and gather information about career opportunities and skills they'll need to obtain jobs.

Business After School launches February 16-18, 2015 with Engineering Week. Engineering firms and companies with STEM-related jobs, including industrial/chemical/test/civil and other engineers, structural analysts and more are invited to host a two-hour after-school event for students at their location.

Participating businesses will support this nonprofit event through \$250, \$500 or \$2,500 sponsorships and provide company tours, hands-on activities and discuss types of jobs available, education and training requirements, salary ranges and opportunities at their company for job shadowing, summer employment, apprenticeships, internships and/or mentoring.

Interested businesses should apply to SWWDC no later than January 21. Applications may be downloaded from SWWDC's website, www.swwdc.org, by clicking the "Business After School" link in the left column or contacting Chelsea Chunn, SWWDC's Youth Initiatives Manager, at cchunn@swwdc.org or 360-567-1066.

Future events will focus on Health Care in May, Manufacturing in October and Computer Science in December.

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Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, is the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) for Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. SWWDC brings together funding, service providers, colleges, economic development and community organizations to provide employment and training services to businesses, job seekers and youth. Its mission is to prepare and promote a skilled and adaptive workforce for a thriving economy in Southwest Washington. For more information, visit www.swwdc.org.