

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Free Manufacturing Skills Training Program Starting in January**

*Orientations Tuesdays at WorkSource; November 30, December 2 and 3 at Lower Columbia College*

**Kelso/Longview, Wash. (November 23, 2015)** – Individuals interested in gaining skills to help them obtain jobs in manufacturing should attend an upcoming orientation meeting at WorkSource or Lower Columbia College to learn more.

Free orientations about the Certified Production Technician (CPT) program will be held November 24 and every Tuesday in December at 3 p.m. at WorkSource, 305 S. Pacific Avenue, Suite A in Kelso and November 30, December 2 and 3 at 10 a.m. at Lower Columbia College's Career Center, 1600 Maple Street, ADC 120 in Longview. To RSVP and for more information, contact Tammi at WorkSource at 360-578-4256 or [tleclerc@esd.wa.gov](mailto:tleclerc@esd.wa.gov) or Crystal at 360-578-4212 or [cgarcia@esd.wa.gov](mailto:cgarcia@esd.wa.gov).

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) is funding the program and individuals will receive the training at no cost to them.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have a GED or high school diploma. Manufacturing experience is not required but applicants should have an interest in working in manufacturing.

Attaining a CPT certificate may increase an individual's chances of getting hired by demonstrating to employers that the individual possess the core competencies required in manufacturing. Participants who complete training will be certified in safety, manufacturing processes and production, maintenance awareness, quality practices and measurement.

The CPT training classes will be held at Lower Columbia College Monday – Thursday, January 11 through March 4 from 3 – 7 p.m. Learn more about the certification at <http://www.msscusa.org/cpt-courses/>

Space is limited and individuals are encouraged to contact WorkSource immediately for details.

Participants who complete the training will be eligible for no-cost career coaching and job placement services through WorkSource.

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**Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC)**, 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. SWWDC helps businesses find and hire the employees they need and provides people the skills, education and training to find work or advance in their careers. SWWDC partners with employers, community colleges and universities, labor groups, government and economic development agencies, high schools and community organizations. Learn more at [www.swwdc.org](http://www.swwdc.org).

**WorkSource** is a partnership of state agencies, local service providers, colleges and community organizations that provide free employment and training services to job seekers and employers. WorkSource assists employers to recruit and screen for qualified applicants, provide wage reimbursement opportunities through On-the-Job Trainings, and supply cost-savings information on employment tax credits. WorkSource serves more than 1,000 jobseekers and 200 businesses each month. For more information, visit [www.go2worksource.com](http://www.go2worksource.com).