

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health care Firms Sought for Business After School Program; applications due March 25

VANCOUVER, Wash. (March 10, 2015) – The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (Swwdc) is seeking companies to participate in Business After School: Health care Week May 4-6, 2015.

“The goal is to expose young people to career opportunities, industries and jobs they might not know exist,” said Swwdc CEO Jeanne Bennett. “This is a great opportunity for companies to make connections with their future workforce and spark career interest in a young person.”

Health care, hospitals and long-term care firms and companies with STEM-related jobs in allied health, dentistry, midwifery/obstetrics, medicine, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, behavioral health, nutrition, physical therapy, fitness and other health-related professions are invited to host a two-hour after-school event for students, ages 16-21, at their location.

During the events, businesses will provide company tours, hands-on activities and discuss types of jobs, education and training requirements, salary ranges and opportunities at their company for job shadowing, summer employment, apprenticeships, internships and/or mentoring.

“To be successful in today’s workforce, young workers need to participate, grown and learn about a variety of professions, careers and industries so they can build the necessary skills to compete in the global workforce,” said Chelsea Chunn, Swwdc’s Youth Initiatives Manager.

The number of events will be limited and companies will be signed up on a first-come, first-served basis. Businesses wishing to participate may sponsor the entire four-week series for \$2,500 or an industry week for \$250 or \$500 to support this nonprofit program.

Interested businesses should apply to Swwdc no later than March 25. 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 Manufacturing in October and Computer Science in December.

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 the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council, Clark College, Columbia River Economic Development Council, Cowlitz Economic Development Council, Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, Kelso Longview Chamber of Commerce, Lower Columbia College and Washington State University Vancouver created Business After School to help young adults learn about and explore high-growth industries and gather information about career opportunities and skills they'll need to obtain jobs.

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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.