

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SWWDC CEO to Chair Washington Workforce Association

VANCOUVER, Wash. (January 7, 2016) – Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) CEO Jeanne Bennett has been elected chair of the Washington Workforce Association (WWA) for a two-year term, beginning January 2016.

The WWA is a nonprofit association of Washington’s 12 workforce development council chief executive officers. Workforce development councils are certified by the Governor of Washington State with agreement from local elected officials under the requirements of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act which calls for a comprehensive system to provide America with a highly-skilled workforce that competes in the global economy.

WWA provides information, training, tools and recommendations to policy makers, workforce development professionals, workforce development council members, and the community at large to help make informed decisions about how to invest in workforce strategies. WWA works in partnership with other statewide, regional and national organizations advocating for a coordinated, funded system focused on the needs of job seekers and businesses.

As chair, Bennett will work closely with the other 11 Washington Workforce Development Board Directors to coordinate the state’s workforce system which includes multiple state agencies, community colleges, community based organizations, businesses and labor unions.

“A structure as large and complicated as the public workforce system requires strong relationships and management skills to ensure businesses are able to hire a talented workforce and job seekers are well prepared for today’s jobs,” said Cheryl Fambles, CEO of Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council and outgoing WWA chair. “WWA is a focal point for workforce strategy and workforce solutions. Jeanne’s experience and skills will be critical as we move into implementation of the new federal workforce legislation. Washington’s economic competitiveness hinges greatly upon our ability to align resources and build relationships. We look forward to her leadership during so critical a time.”

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.

The Washington Workforce Association (WWA) is a nonprofit non-partisan membership organization of the 12 Workforce Development Councils (WDC) of Washington State. The WDCs are business-led boards that coordinate and leverage workforce investments and strategies with stakeholders from education,

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economic development, labor and community-based organizations to advance the economic health of their respective communities through a skilled and competitive workforce. Learn more at <http://washingtonworkforce.org>.

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