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SWWDC Announces New Hires

Justin Evers, Chelsea Jackson, Lee Ann Lawrence and Julia Maglione join staff of nonprofit

Vancouver, Wash. (Oct. 25, 2013) – The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) has hired four new employees to enhance delivery of workforce training and employment services to businesses and individuals in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.

Justin Evers is the organization's Integration Coordinator, a new position that will bring WorkSource's employment services directly to individuals through organizations currently serving them.

Evers worked for the Longview Police Department as a Project Manager, developing partnerships to comprehensively address drug use in Cowlitz County. Most recently, he was with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs where he assisted newly-separated veterans and veterans with additional barriers attain employment in the civilian workforce. Evers has also served as a federal law enforcement/anti-terrorism officer for the Navy.

He has been a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for the YWCA of Clark County, was a volunteer youth initiatives manager for a community resource center in the Seattle area, and presently sits on the Board of Merit Partners, a nonprofit social enterprise that trains young adult offenders in all aspects of running a business to give them job skills to succeed upon release from incarceration. Evers graduated from Pennsylvania State with a major in Law and Society.

Chelsea Jackson, Youth Initiatives Manager, will develop, implement and manage strategies and programming in the community to expose youth to training and employment opportunities for the region's high-demand jobs.

Before joining the SWWDC, Jackson was Transitions Program Coordinator at Innovative Services NW, assisting foster youth to transition to independent futures. She has worked with a variety of organizations including Upward Bound programs in upstate New York that focused on serving youth involved in juvenile justice and inner city gangs, America Reads programs for special education services in Maine, and was a Housing Specialist with Outside In and the Homeless Youth Continuum of Care in Portland, Oregon.

Jackson received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. She currently chairs the Youth Access Workgroup (formerly Foster Youth Continuum of Care) that unites community providers and increases access to services for youth and young adults ages 12-25 that are experiencing homelessness in Clark County. She has served on the Adolescent and Sexuality Conference Steering Committee across the state of Oregon and is an active member of the Coalition of Service Providers through the Council for the Homeless.

Lee Ann Lawrence, Employer Services Manager, will assist employers with funding and training resources to enhance the skills of their existing employees and connect them with WorkSource services to recruit and hire skilled workers.

She has a history of workforce development experience in the Portland metro region and knowledge of the regional workforce system. Lawrence has a commitment to building strong partnerships across industry, business and community organizations to support vibrant growth in our regional economy.

Lawrence holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology and Spanish from Western Washington University where she also published and earned a certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. She studied economic development at the CIMAS Foundation in Quito, Ecuador.

Julia Maglione, Communications Manager, is responsible for public relations, the organization's websites, social media, development of printed materials, special events planning and collaborating with partners across the region to inform businesses and individuals of funding and employment training opportunities.

Maglione has more than 15 years of public relations and communications experience, most recently with a local marketing communications firm. Her prior positions include program manager in Clark College's Corporate and Continuing Education department and communications positions with nonprofit organizations and public relations agencies in the San Francisco Bay area and Los Angeles.

She currently serves on the board of Leadership Clark County and is a 2012 graduate of the program. She has been a member of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, East Vancouver Business Association, Women Entrepreneurs Organization (WEO) and the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Maglione graduated from California State University Northridge with a bachelor's degree in journalism and public relations.

"Our goal is to ensure employers get the right workers at the right time and individuals develop the skills needed to find jobs that meet their needs," said Jeanne Bennett, SWWDC's Executive Director. "This top-notch team of skilled professionals will allow us to fully implement our 2014-2017 Strategic Plan while engaging local employers, educators, labor and social service partners in improving workforce options in our community."

Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) provides funding and connects businesses and individuals with free training resources through its partnerships with WorkSource, Educational Service District 112, Goodwill Tacoma and community colleges to create a skilled and adaptive workforce for a thriving economy in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. It helps residents develop skills that meet their employment needs and helps employers get the right workers at the right time. SWWDC is led by a diverse board of representatives from business, labor, community-based organizations and government agencies. For more information, visit www.swwdc.org.

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