

For Immediate Release

Julia Maglione, jmaglione@swwdc.org, 360-567-3176

SWWDC Increases Key Industry Expertise on its Board

Clark County, Wash. (Aug. 11, 2014) – The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) has added 12 new members to enhance its collaboration with key growth industries and enable it to further align workforce training and employment services with industry needs. New Executive Committee appointments were also made.

“Adding representatives from manufacturing, IT/software, construction, transportation/logistics, health care and finance to our council gives us greater insight into the training and hiring needs for these industries,” said John Vanderkin, SWWDC Council Chair. He continued, “It’s important to have them at the table and we’re pleased they’re engaged in the workforce system.”

“We’re happy so many Cowlitz companies want to be involved in workforce,” said Mike Karnofski, Cowlitz County Commissioner.” He continued, “The industries we have represented on the Council are where many of the future jobs will be and we need to ensure our residents have the skills to get these jobs.”

On the Executive Committee, John Vanderkin, President of Employers Overload, is Council Chair; Angela Simmons, Staff Development Specialist at iQ Credit Union, is Vice-Chair; and Mindy Heuer, Accountant at the Port of Kalama, is Treasurer.

New Council members are:

- Bob Carroll, Business Representative – IBEW Local Union 48
- Renny Christopher, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – WSU Vancouver
- Traci Eshelman, HR Manager – Thompson Metal Fab
- Kelley Foy, HR Manager – Columbia Machine
- Cliff Glass, Transportation Manager – UNFI
- Keath Huff, Systems Engineer and Account Manager – Utilize I.T., Inc.
- Mike Lemmons, Mortgage Loan Officer – Republic Mortgage Home Loans
- Michele Mulhern, Vocational Rehabilitation Lead Counselor – Dept. of Social and Health Services
- Denise Smith, Chief Operating Officer – Rebound Orthopedics & Neurosurgery
- Paige Spratt, Attorney – Immix Law Group PC
- Bruce Warrick, Continuous Improvement Manager – Kapstone Paper
- Ed Barnes, Clark County Commissioner, serves on the Executive Board of County Commissioners

“We’re focusing additional resources on our region’s projected high-growth, high-demand industries to ensure employers have a pool of local talent from which to choose and residents have the skills they need to get the jobs of today and tomorrow,” said Jeanne Bennett, SWWDC Executive Director.

“Improving skills of workers in these areas will support business growth and success and improve the regional economy.”

For the complete list of SWWDC Board members, visit <http://swwdc.org/about-swwdc/boardmembers.html#commissioners>.

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 free employment and training services to businesses, job seekers and youth. For more information, visit www.swwdc.org.

###

Note: Photos are available, upon request, of: John Vanderkin, Traci Eshelman, Keath Huff, Mike Lemmons, Paige Spratt, Renny Christopher, Kelley Foy and Denise Smith