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SWWDC and Partners Receive \$8.45 Million to Train 1,000 Long-Term Unemployed and Veterans

Vancouver, Wash. (October 15, 2014) – The Southwest Washington/Portland Metro Area will receive nearly \$8.5 million to train 850 long-term unemployed individuals and 150 veterans for jobs in manufacturing and information technology.

The grant proposal, a collaboration between the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), Worksystems, Inc. and the Workforce Investment Council of Clackamas County is one of only three grants awarded nationally that cover more than one state. A total of 23 grants were awarded.

“By continuing to work closely with our Portland-based partners, we are able to bring valuable resources into our community,” said SWWDC Chief Executive Officer Jeanne Bennett. “In this case, manufacturing and IT companies will benefit from a skilled-up workforce and local residents will meet the demand for local jobs. Ideally, this will lead to business growth and more jobs in Southwest Washington.”

Southwest Washington will receive \$1,890,800 to assist a minimum of 240 residents who have experienced long periods of unemployment.

The three-year grant will provide needs and skills assessments, job placement services, coaching, work-based training (on-the-job training, supported work experience, internships), and short-term intensive skills training for individuals in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. Participants may also receive financial counseling, child-care support, health care and other supporter services to help them focus on finding a job.

The grant is part of \$169,771,960 in Ready to Work grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor to expedite the employment of Americans struggling with long-term unemployment.

Individuals looking for jobs should contact WorkSource in Clark County at 360-735-5000 and in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties at 360-577-2250 to learn about no-cost programs that will help them gain the necessary skills to be competitive in today’s job market.

Businesses looking for employees can contact Darcy Hoffman at the Vancouver WorkSource office at 360-735-5038 or dhoffman@esd.wa.gov or Tina Cruz at the Kelso WorkSource office at 360-578-4254 or tcruz@esd.wa.gov for no-cost assistance writing job descriptions, posting job openings and screening candidates.

About the Workforce Boards:

The 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, state agencies, local service providers, colleges and community organizations to provide employment and training services to businesses, job seekers and youth. Learn more at www.swwdc.org.

Worksystems, Inc. (www.worksystems.org) is a nonprofit agency that accelerates economic growth in the City of Portland, Multnomah and Washington counties by pursuing and investing resources to improve the quality of the workforce. We design and coordinate workforce development programs and services delivered through a network of local partners to help people get the skills, training and education they need to go to work or to advance in their careers. Our partners include employers, labor groups, government, community colleges, high schools, community-based and economic development organizations.

The Workforce Investment Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a strong workforce in Clackamas County. Through public-private partnerships, we attract funding to help local businesses proactively address a key challenge to their success—a skilled, competitive workforce. For more information, visit <http://www.wicco.org>.

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