

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Registration Closes February 16 for Business After School Engineering Week

VANCOUVER, Wash. (Feb. 2, 2016) – Teens and young adults interested in visiting local businesses and learning about careers surrounding engineering have until **February 16** to register for Business After School Engineering Week.

Business After School Engineering week is February 22-26 and is open to young adults, ages 16-24. Sponsoring company is MacKay Sposito and companies hosting events are: CID-Bioscience, Cowlitz Public Utilities District, Gibbs & Olson and SEH America.

The companies are hosting two-hour events at their locations and will be providing company tours, hands-on activities and discussions of the necessary education, training, skills and future job prospects.

- February 23, 4-6 p.m. - Gibbs & Olson, Longview, WA
- February 24, 2-4 p.m. - Cowlitz Public Utilities District, Longview, WA
- February 25, 2-4 p.m. - CID-Bioscience, Camas, WA
- February 26, 3-5 p.m. - SEH America, Vancouver, WA

To register to attend an event and for additional information, visit <http://www.business-after-school.org/events-registration>.

There is no cost to attend, but **registration is required (no drop-ins) and space is limited**. Youth under age 18 **must** be accompanied by an adult, with a maximum 10 students to one chaperone. Participants will arrange their own transportation.

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 and founding event partners 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 teens and 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, 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.

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