

NEWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- February 2014
- **Chelsea Jackson, Youth Initiatives Manager**
- Request for Proposals - WIA Adult & Youth
- New Industry & Expertise Join SWWDC Board
- Student Gets New Outlook on Life
- Holiday Surprise for Young Parents
- Internships = Investing in the Future
- Career and Technical Education Successes
- In the News

IN OTHER NEWS

Board Meeting

March 12, 2014

4-6 p.m. at PeaceHealth St. Johns Medical Center in Longview. Click for details.

Strategic Plan 2014-2017

View the SWWDC's new Strategic Plan at www.swwdc.org

Mission

To prepare and promote a skilled and adaptive workforce for a thriving

February 2014

Welcome to "News" from the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), featuring information about the SWWDC, our partners and workforce development in the region.

Chelsea Jackson, Youth Initiatives Manager

Chelsea Jackson has a passion for young people and for helping them succeed. As the SWWDC's Youth Initiatives Manager, Chelsea oversees all Workforce Investment Act (WIA) contracts, including existing contracts with Educational Service District 112 and Tacoma Goodwill to provide disadvantaged youth with training and employment opportunities.



She also develops new programs and strategies to reach underserved youth, including those who have dropped out of school, are experiencing foster care, are homeless, pregnant or parenting, involved in the juvenile justice system or those having significant barriers to employment and education.

"Every youth deserves the opportunity to succeed," said Chelsea. "The SWWDC is always seeking out partnerships for mentoring, job shadowing, career exposure, internships and employment opportunities that will truly revolutionize our future leaders and our emerging workforce."

Before joining the SWWDC in September 2013, Chelsea 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

economy in Southwest Washington.

Our Partners



Educational Service
District 112

Tacoma Goodwill

Questions/Comments?

Contact Julia Maglione,
Communications Manager,
at jmaglione@swwdc.org.

SWWDC

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programs in upstate New York that focused on serving youth involved in juvenile justice and inner city gangs by promoting pathways to college, America Reads programs for special education services on the East Coast, and served as a Housing Specialist with Outside In, a branch of the Homeless Youth Continuum of Care in Portland, Oregon.

In addition to her experience working directly with a variety of at-risk populations, Chelsea currently chairs the Youth Access Workgroup that unites community providers to increase access to services for youth and young adults ages 12-25 that are experiencing homelessness in Clark County. Outside of the office, Chelsea can be found volunteering at many community organizations throughout the year, including Our House, helping those with HIV/AIDS live better lives and the Winter Hospitality Overflow in Vancouver. She graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine with a bachelor's degree in Psychology.

Chelsea can be reached at 360-567-1066 or cjackson@swwdc.org.

Photo by [Aevum Images](#)

Request for Proposals - WIA Adult & Youth

SWWDC has released two Requests for Proposals (RFPs). The first is for **WIA Adult & Dislocated Worker Services and One-stop Operator**. The second is for **WIA Youth Out-of-School Services**.

A Bidders' Conference for the Adult RFP will be held Friday, February 14 at 10 a.m. at the Fort Vancouver Regional Library, 901 C Street, Vancouver. Proposals are due March 24, 2014 by 5 p.m. PST.

The Youth Bidders' Conference is Tuesday, February 18 at 2:30 p.m. at the same library location. Proposals are due April 4, 2014 by 5 p.m. PDT.

All prospective applicants are encouraged to attend the Bidders' Conference. View the RFPs at www.swwdc.org/other-sitepages/procurement.html.

New Industry & Expertise Join SWWDC Board



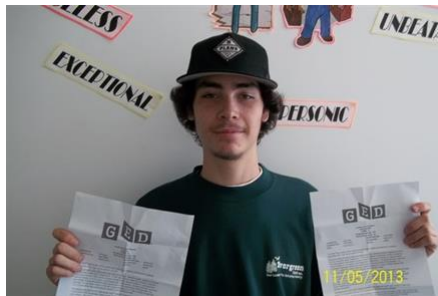
Three new members joined the SWWDC Board of Directors in January: Mike Bomar, Columbia River Economic Development President; Jim Lucey, Controller at Linear Technology; and Bill Skidmore, Senior Account Executive at McKinstry.

“We are fortunate to add the expertise and experience of Mike, Jim and Bill to our board,” said Jeffrey Graham, SWWDC board chair and HR Project Manager at UNFI. “Our continued partnerships between workforce development, industry and economic development are key to getting employers the right workers at the right time, and helping job candidates get the skills and jobs that meet their needs.”

Learn more about our new Board Members at http://www.swwdc.org/documents/NewsRelease-SWWDCAnnouncesThreeNewBoardMembers_000.pdf.

Photos (l to r): Mike Bomar, Bill Skidmore, Jim Lucey

Student Gets New Outlook on Life



SWWDC provides funding and support to Tacoma Goodwill for its Work Opportunity Center in Longview. Gina McConnell, an AmeriCorps volunteer at the center, submitted this story. It's been edited for space.

I began working with the youth at the Work Opportunity Center in September 2013. I assist in the classroom. Some of the students were not happy because they were court mandated to this program and had little motivation for school.

Most of the youth that come to us have some court involvement and we decided to take them on two fieldtrips. First was to the Cowlitz County Jail where they received a tour of the adult facility and an officer answered their questions. The students walked away a little intimidated and more aware of the possibilities that happen to people

accused of committing a crime after they turn 18. The following day we took the students to Lower Columbia College where they were able to see what their dream job would require in schooling.

David was absent from class quite a bit and didn't see how earning his GED would help with his life. The field trips were a pivotal point as he was turning 18 within weeks and did not want to end up in the adult justice system. David began coming to class every day, participating in discussions and asking questions. We felt he was ready and signed him up for his GED test. He was nervous and told me he never followed through with things because he was afraid of failing. I told him we all believed he would pass his tests.

The next day, David showed up with the most amazing smile as he showed us his test results. He soared in his scores and passed them all. I will never forget that day. His mom came in and I showed her the results. David was glowing with pride and his mom's eyes welled up with tears as she told him how proud she was.

David has continued to improve inside and outside the classroom. He worked an internship with Habitat for Humanity and is in touch with the Pipefitters Union to follow in his father's footsteps. He is studying to earn his driver's license and is considering going into welding at the community college as it will enhance his abilities to become an apprentice in the Pipefitters Union. His outlook on life has completely changed as a result of his engagement in our Goodwill youth program.

Photo provided by Tacoma Goodwill.

Holiday Surprise for Young Parents

The Youth Workforce Program operated by Educational Service District 112 (ESD112), under contract to SWWDC, serves

low-income youth ages 16-21 that are completing their high school diploma or GED in preparation to enter the workforce or pursue post-secondary education. Many of the youth have experienced foster care, homelessness, juvenile justice or drop out, teen pregnancy or English as a second language. In addition, a large percentage read and write at or below 8th grade level, leaving them behind their peers and less competitive in the job market.



Young parents in the program have additional needs as they care for children of their own, and the holidays are especially challenging. For the past two years, community member Stephanie Curtis has collaborated with Chelsea Jackson, SWWDC's Youth Initiatives Manager, to provide holiday gifts for the children of young parents.

In November 2013, Chelsea connected Stephanie with ESD112's Youth Workforce Program. The Program identified four youth with children who were in need and provided first names, ages, likes and interests of the children to Stephanie. Two weeks later, Stephanie arrived at the office with a large box of gifts for each of the six children and a gift card to a local grocer for the parents.

"One young parent was so moved by receiving wrapped gifts for her children that she had a hard time keeping herself together," said Ryan Blodgett, Coordinator, Youth Workforce Program. "She said it made their day and her children were sharing the toys."

For Stephanie and her mom and dad, Tammy and Terry, this is an ongoing mission to give holiday gifts to families in need.

"Helping these young parents is important to us because they are our future," said Stephanie. "Their generation is going to be in charge one day, and if we can make a difference for them now, they can make a difference in our world later."

Photos provided by ESD112 (l to r): Felicia Boden and Shaylee Jackson received holiday presents for their children.

Internships = Investing in the Future



Internships are an effective way for students to learn about the world of work and specific industries. They are also valuable opportunities

for companies to preview the talents and skills of the future workforce.

Learn more about opportunities for your organization to participate in internship programs through the Columbia River Economic Development Council's (CREDC's) new internship resources page.

See side-by-side comparisons of FAQs about high school, Clark College and WSUV programs prepared by the CREDC Education Committee at <http://www.credc.org/services/internship-opportunities/>.

Invest in tomorrow's workforce - participate in an internship program today!

Career and Technical Education Successes

In celebration of February as National Career and Technical Education (CTE) month, we asked our local school districts to share a few of the exciting and innovative things they're doing around CTE. We think you'll be impressed:



Vancouver School District

Skyview High School's Web Design Club is creating a new Skyview website, complete with iPhone versions and usability for all types of computers/screens, etc. They are setting up the server, finishing pages and getting photos.

In February, **Fort Vancouver High School's Culinary Arts** will compete in Skills USA Cooking, Commercial Baking and Food and Beverage contests at Clark College and in Skills USA Leadership contests at the Clark County Skills Center.

Contact: Wendi Russell, Director of Career and Technical Education, Vancouver School District, at 360.313.1350 or Wendi.Russell@vansd.org.

Clark County Skills Center

The Criminal Justice program graduated nine students from the Washington State Law Enforcement Exploring Advisor's Academy. The students spent five days training, marching, attending law enforcement classes, and developing leadership skills.

Congratulations to **Pre-Engineering Design Technology** for securing a \$2,000 grant from the Samuel S. Johnson Foundation to aid in equipment and technology support for the program.

On January 25, the **Cosmetology School** provided up-do's, manicures and pedicures to students from Mountain View, Washougal and Woodland high schools that had dances that evening. The Cosmetology school will open its doors again in April to support a number of school proms.

The **Dental** program volunteered at "Compassion 2013" in Ridgefield and provided 63 exams, 18 cleanings, 18 extractions, 51 x-rays, 2 root canals and 42 fillings.

Contact: Margaret Rice, Dean of Students, Clark County Skills Center, at 360.604.1073 or margaret.rice@evergreenps.org.

During CTE Month, the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE) encourages us to learn about the accomplishments, achievements and contributions of career and technical education (CTE) professionals, students and alumni with the theme "Celebrate CTE Superheroes." <http://www.acteonline.org/ctemonth/#.UvqZ5aPTm71>.

"The Association for Career and Technical Education does not endorse any third-party statements or techniques in particular—for details, please contact webmaster@acteonline.org."

In the News

See recent **coverage of the SWWDC and workforce projects.**

The SWWDC, a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, is the Workforce Investment Board for Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. SWWDC brings together funding, state agencies, local service providers, colleges and community-based organizations to provide employment and training services to employers, job seekers and youth.

Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) is an equal opportunity employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. To place a relay call, dial 711.

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