

NEWS

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IN OTHER NEWS

Board Meeting

January 8, 2014

4-6 p.m. at Educational Service District 112 in Vancouver. Click for details.

Save the Date



STEM Fest
October 3-5, 2014
[Learn more.](#)

Mission

To prepare and promote a skilled and adaptive

January 2014

Welcome to "News" from the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC). This bi-monthly publication features news and information about the SWWDC, our partners and workforce development in the region.

We welcome your comments and suggestions!

Meet Justin Evers, Integration Coordinator

Justin Evers joined the SWWDC in July as its Integration Coordinator, a new position that will bring WorkSource's employment services directly to individuals through organizations currently serving them.

"We're excited about the work Justin is doing to increase our partnerships in the community," said Tim Foley, SWWDC's Director of Employment & Training Services. "His coordination efforts will allow us and our partners to leverage resources to bring employment services to the people who need them where they are already receiving other services."



Most recently, Justin 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. Justin has also served as a federal law enforcement/anti-terrorism officer for the Navy and project manager for the Longview Police Department, developing partnerships to comprehensively address drug use in Cowlitz County.

Justin has been a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for the YWCA

workforce for a thriving economy in Southwest Washington.

Our Partners



Educational Service
District 112

Tacoma Goodwill

Questions/Comments?

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

SWWDC

360.567.1070
360.567.1054 Fax
www.swwdc.org

of Clark County, 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. He graduated from Pennsylvania State with a major in Law and Society.

Justin can be reached at jeverson@swwdc.org or 360.567.3185.

Photo by Aevum Images

SWWDC & ResCare Provide Wahkiakum Community Center Computer



As part of its ongoing commitment to building partnerships, the SWWDC presented a computer to the Wahkiakum County Commissioners on Tuesday, November 19. The computer, for the lobby of the Wahkiakum Community Center, will connect to WorkSource and other

employment resources.

“The computer for the community center is just one way the SWWDC and WorkSource are providing the residents of Wahkiakum County with resources to help them prepare for and find jobs,” said Jeanne Bennett, Executive Director of the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council. “We look forward to finding new ways to bring WorkSource services directly to the community.”

The SWWDC and WorkSource collaborated with the Wahkiakum Community Network and other partners to identify the community’s needs. SWWDC partner, ResCare, donated the computer for the lobby’s resource kiosk. The computer will provide access to WorkSource’s employment services, online tools such as resume templates, and information on job preparation workshops. Additional resources will be added over time, and WorkSource will be exploring opportunities to host job and career workshops at the community center.

Photo: (l to r) Wahkiakum County Commissioners Mike Backman and Dan Cothren, SWWDC Executive Director Jeanne Bennett, Wahkiakum Community Network Executive Director Lia Sealund and Cathlamet Mayor George Wehrfritz. Photo by Julia Maglione, SWWDC.

Scholarships Awarded to Cowlitz STEM Students

SWWDC and nConnect have awarded \$1,000 scholarships to students Rebekah Moreno and Melina Taskey. The money was a grant from the Charitable Lead Annuity Trust to be used for scholarships for Cowlitz students pursuing education in science, technology, engineering or math (STEM).

"Supporting young people's education in STEM fields is vitally important to ensure the viability of our local companies," said Jeanne Bennett, Executive Director of the SWWDC. "We're helping prepare their workforce of tomorrow."

Both students graduated high school in June and have started their first year of college at Lower Columbia College. Moreno graduated from Kelso High School and is studying psychology. She hopes to transfer to the University of Washington after obtaining her associate's degree. Taskey, who attended R.A. Long High School, plans to study nursing and works part-time at a daycare center.

"We very much appreciate this generous donation to support these scholarships," said Scott Keeney, nConnect Board Chairman. "Preparing students for careers in fields that focus on science, technology, engineering and math is key to our region's long-term competitiveness and prosperity."

nConnect, a Vancouver-based nonprofit organization, inspires, connects, challenges and supports future leaders and innovators through real-world applications in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). nConnect leverages committed STEM professionals to provide the relevance and relationships that motivate students to pursue rigorous STEM courses of study. Learn more at www.nconnect.org.

SWWDC Achieves Highest Ratings

SWWDC achieved the highest average performance in the state as compared to 12 other Workforce Development Councils and received a cash grant from the Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and Employment Security Department for its noteworthy performance.

SWWDC achieved an average of 110 percent of its WIA state and federal performance measure targets. The SWWDC was awarded \$5,000 and will reinvest the money into local workforce training initiatives.

"This a remarkable accomplishment that demonstrates the value of working together to get people employed in our communities," said Jeffrey Graham, HR Project Manager at UNFI and SWWDC board chair. "I am proud to be

part of this effective organization!”

The award is for the program year that began in 2011; it included programs for adults, dislocated workers and youth in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.

“This award is the result of teamwork between the SWWDC and our partners, including ResCare Workforce Solutions, Employment Security Department, Educational Service District 112 and Goodwill Tacoma,” said Jeanne Bennett, SWWDC Executive Director. “This award validates our efforts, but there is more to do. Reemployment programs like those offered at WorkSource are essential to help job-ready people get back to work.”

In the News

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

The SWWDC, a nonprofit organization, is the Workforce Investment Board 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 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.

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Southwest Washington
Workforce Development
Council
805 Broadway, Suite 412
Vancouver, WA 98660