

## in this issue

- ARRA funds making a difference in SW Washington workforce efforts
- Engineering Talent Retention Symposia coming to the Portland Metro area
- WorkSource and colleges co-locate staff to better serve unemployed
- Clark College and ESD 112's Youth Workforce Program collaborate to offer Welding Boot Camp
- SWWDC teams up with Oregon Entrepreneurs Network to bring PubTalk to SW Washington
- WorkSource Kelso hires new Co-Administrator

Want to print out our newsletter and read it later? Click below to download WorkingNews as a pdf file.

print news

805 Broadway St., Suite 412  
Vancouver, WA 98660  
360.567.1070 phone  
360.567.1054 fax

www.swwdc.org  
email: info@swwdc.org

# WorkingNews

October 2009 — Second Issue

## ARRA funds making a difference in SW Washington workforce efforts

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) wrapped up its Phase I efforts, with 696 youth earning more than \$1.1 million. Ninety-three percent of the youth made gains in work readiness skills—a key goal of the program. Seventy-four percent of participants returned to their educational pursuits upon completion of the program. An additional 68 out-of-school youth, ages 18-24, will have the opportunity to continue with the program this fall, with a goal of permanent employment or enrollment in post-secondary education upon completion of their work experience. For a detailed program report, visit [www.swwdc.org/summeryouth](http://www.swwdc.org/summeryouth).



SYEP youth working at Clark College

The adult and dislocated worker training initiatives are underway, with more than 100 people enrolled in new ARRA funded training programs at Clark College, Lower Columbia College, West Coast Training, and NECA/IBEW. Training in high demand occupations began this summer with additional enrollments occurring this fall and winter. More than **300 training slots** are available through June 2010.

## Engineering Talent Retention Symposia coming to the Portland Metro area

SWWDC, in conjunction with its counterparts in northern Oregon, is planning two Engineering Talent Symposia in the Vancouver/Portland Metro area to identify, engage and inform engineering professionals who are likely to become dislocated workers about other career opportunities within the region. The goal is to retain this talent within the regional labor shed.

This effort, funded by a WIRED grant from the US Department of Labor, will bring together subject matter experts, service providers, and educators to inform expo participants about education and training in emerging industries, such as biotech and alternative energy technologies. Participants will also receive information related to teaching in high demand subjects, job seeking and entrepreneurial pursuits.

*"Nationally, we lag way behind our foreign competitors in terms of our supply of engineering talent,"* said Shelley Parker, SWWDC project manager. *"So since we have trained and experienced engineers in our own back yard, we want to be sure that we don't lose them during this downturn in our economy. Long-term, we know we will need these engineers in order for employers to locate, expand, and grow in our region."*

The Talent Symposia will be held November 12, 2009 at the Embassy Suites Portland/Washington Square and November 16, 2009 at the Vancouver Hilton in Vancouver. For more information, contact Shelley Parker at [sparker@swwdc.org](mailto:sparker@swwdc.org).

The mission of SWWDC is to prepare and promote a highly skilled and adaptive workforce for a healthy, sustainable economy in Southwest Washington.

You're receiving this newsletter because you are subscribed to SWWDC's WorkingNews. You can change your [subscription preferences](#) for WorkingNews on our website.

## in this issue

- ARRA funds making a difference in SW Washington workforce efforts
- Engineering Talent Retention Symposia coming to the Portland Metro area
- WorkSource and colleges co-locate staff to better serve unemployed
- Clark College and ESD 112's Youth Workforce Program collaborate to offer Welding Boot Camp
- SWWDC teams up with Oregon Entrepreneurs Network to bring PubTalk to SW Washington
- WorkSource Kelso hires new Co-Administrator

Want to print out our newsletter and read it later? Click below to download WorkingNews as a pdf file.

print news

805 Broadway St., Suite 412  
Vancouver, WA 98660  
360.567.1070 phone  
360.567.1054 fax

www.swwdc.org  
email: info@swwdc.org

## WorkingNews

October 2009 issue  
page 2 of 3

### WorkSource and colleges co-locate staff to better serve unemployed

Clark College and Lower Columbia College are hosting two new staff each—a Career Specialist and a Financial Aid Advisor. The new positions are actually WorkSource staff located onsite at the colleges and are funded through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds which are administered by the SWWDC.

The idea to co-locate staff came out of the lean process that SW WorkSource centers recently underwent. The rationale behind the arrangement is to streamline financial and employment services for students and to strengthen the partnership between the colleges and their respective WorkSource center.

Jordana Barclay, SWWDC program manager, says the intent is not to create new WorkSource sites but rather to better package resources to clients. *"The integration of our staff at the colleges is meant to improve customer service and increase knowledge transfer between WorkSource staff and the college staff. With cross training, WorkSource staff will get to know college resources better and the college staff will get to know more about resources at WorkSource,"* she said.

The full-time positions are funded through the end of June 2010 and will first focus on assisting students receiving training that is funded through ARRA programs.

### Clark College and ESD 112's Youth Workforce Program collaborate to offer Welding Boot Camp

Ten students in ESD 112's Youth Workforce program, ages 18-21 years old, had an opportunity to try their hand at welding, a high demand skill in our region, during a two week concentrated "boot camp".

The boot camp was designed to help youth decide whether or not they have the aptitude and interest in welding without enrolling in a 10 to 12 week welding class. Classes at local community colleges and training schools are difficult for inexperienced youth to get into and are often full with adults looking for a career change or to brush up on their own welding skills.

That's why Clark College and ESD 112 teamed up to pilot the welding boot camp. With funding from SWWDC, nine young men and one young woman got to see if they have what it takes to weld—in a manner that mirrors a full-time welding job.

Under the tutelage of Clark College welding instructor John Kuhn, the youth worked six and a half hours a day for two weeks and earned four college credits. *"They got a chance to try stick, wire feed, MIG, TIG and oxy-fueled welding techniques. By the end of the two weeks, they learned what it takes to weld and knew if they would enjoy it in a day-long environment,"* says Kuhn.

Seven of the youth decided to continue on in the welding sequence and work toward national certification. They are currently working to get into winter quarter welding classes at Clark.

Clark College and ESD 112 are discussing a second welding boot camp, and also are looking into similar programs in different occupational areas.



Students in the Youth Workforce program try their hand at welding

The mission of SWWDC is to prepare and promote a highly skilled and adaptive workforce for a healthy, sustainable economy in Southwest Washington.

You're receiving this newsletter because you are subscribed to SWWDC's WorkingNews. You can change your [subscription preferences](#) for WorkingNews on our website.

## in this issue

- ARRA funds making a difference in SW Washington workforce efforts
- Engineering Talent Retention Symposia coming to the Portland Metro area
- WorkSource and colleges co-locate staff to better serve unemployed
- Clark College and ESD 112's Youth Workforce Program collaborate to offer Welding Boot Camp
- SWWDC teams up with Oregon Entrepreneurs Network to bring PubTalk to SW Washington
- WorkSource Kelso hires new Co-Administrator

Want to print out our newsletter and read it later? Click below to download WorkingNews as a pdf file.

print news

805 Broadway St., Suite 412  
Vancouver, WA 98660  
360.567.1070 phone  
360.567.1054 fax

www.swwdc.org  
email: info@swwdc.org

# WorkingNews

October 2009 issue  
page 3 of 3

## SWWDC teams up with Oregon Entrepreneurs Network to bring PubTalk to SW Washington

The SWWDC is partnering with the Oregon Entrepreneurs Network (OEN) to bring PubTalk—a vital connection that enables entrepreneurs to learn and grow from each other—to Southwest Washington.



Entrepreneurs need access to information, contacts and capital. PubTalk is a place to find just that. It is a unique mix of educational panel discussions combined with opportunities for entrepreneurs to gain expertise in delivering investment pitches. During a PubTalk, two emerging entrepreneurs present their five minute pitch on who they are and what they do, and receive feedback on their products, services, business model, marketing strategy, or other integral component of their business. The objective is to leverage the strength and experience of the community, providing an invaluable learning opportunity for young entrepreneurs.

The first SW WA edition of PubTalk is slated for Wednesday, December 2, 2009.

## WorkSource Kelso hires new Co-Administrator

In August, **Terry Redmon** was hired by WA Employment Security Department (ESD) as the new Co-Administrator of the WorkSource Cowlitz/Wahkiakum center. Terry oversees the daily operations of the center, which provides comprehensive reemployment and training services throughout Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties. He is responsible for planning, coordinating, developing and prioritizing programs and services.



Terry Redmon, the new Co-Administrator of WorkSource Cowlitz/Wahkiakum

Terry, who loves supervising people and having a positive impact on others, is excited about his role and the opportunity to serve the people of SW Washington. *"I plan to continue the good work this office is doing, to continue to increase productivity and to maintain an air of respectfulness to all during a difficult time in our counties,"* he said.

Prior to WorkSource, Terry worked for over 20 years in Washington's Department of Social and Health Services, primarily in Vocational Rehabilitation. He has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Eastern Washington University and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

Terry was born in a small town in Mississippi. He and his wife Tammy have two children: Carly, a sophomore in high school and Ryan, a student at WSU in Pullman. As an avid cyclist, Terry has completed the Seattle to Portland bike ride about seven or eight times and hopes to do a cross country bike ride within the next ten years.

The mission of SWWDC is to prepare and promote a highly skilled and adaptive workforce for a healthy, sustainable economy in Southwest Washington.

You're receiving this newsletter because you are subscribed to SWWDC's WorkingNews. You can change your [subscription preferences](#) for WorkingNews on our website.