

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- August 2014
- Region Wins \$1.1 Million for YouthBuild
- \$400,000 to Help Long-term Unemployed
- Marie Andrus, Chief Financial Officer
- Support Job Training During Give More 24!
- Connecting Nonprofits to Workforce
- Education & Workforce Event - Sept. 25
- SWWDC Increases Key Industry Expertise
- Philip A. Parker Memorial Scholarship Accepting Donations
- Job Opening: Employer Services Manager
- Youth Council Seeking Members
- Workforce 101 Website Revamped
- Susan Dixon "Administrator of the Year"
- Goodwill Impacting Young Lives
- Wahkiakum Community Center Opens
- WSUV Community Celebration – Sept. 6
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

August 2014

Welcome to **News** from the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC), featuring information about the region's workforce system.

Region Wins \$1.1 Million for YouthBuild



SWWDC and its partners have been awarded a \$1.1 million three-year YouthBuild grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to support academic and occupational skills training in construction for at-risk youth in Vancouver.

In conjunction with Partners in Careers, Innovative Services

NW, Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, Vancouver Housing Authority and WorkSource Vancouver, the program will serve 45-60 youth ages 17-21 who are high school dropouts, low income or experiencing additional barriers to successful employment and independence.

Vancouver YouthBuild provides a clear path to opportunities, including guaranteed college entry, pathways to apprenticeships, and employment interviews/preferential hiring for youth who complete the program. Participants will complete their secondary education, gain real-world construction skills and prepare for future work and education as they transition to adulthood.

Contact Chelsea Chunn, Youth Initiatives Manager, at cchunn@swwdc.org or 360.567.1066.

(WIOA) Signed

- In the News

IN OTHER NEWS

Council Meeting

September 10, 2014

4-6 p.m. at PeaceHealth
St. John Medical Center,
Longview. Click for
details.

Strategic Plan 2014-17

SWWDC's Strategic Plan
<http://www.swwdc.org/about-swwdc/strategicplan.html>

Mission

To prepare and promote a skilled and adaptive workforce for a thriving economy in Southwest Washington.

Our Partners



Educational Service
District 112

Tacoma Goodwill

Partners in Careers

Innovative Services NW

Questions/Comments?

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SWWDC

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\$400,000 to Help Long-term Unemployed

SWWDC was recently awarded \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of Labor to provide classroom and on-the-job training in the health care field for people who have been unemployed six months or longer. Funds should be available in September and continue through June 2016. Those meeting eligibility requirements should apply at WorkSource centers in Vancouver and Kelso.

Contact Tim Foley at tfoley@swwdc.org or 360.567.1076.

Marie Andrus, Chief Financial Officer

As SWWDC's Chief Financial Officer for the past eight years, Marie Andrus provides fiscal and administration oversight of SWWDC and several partner organizations.

Marie manages fiscal, accounting, reporting and budgetary operations, working closely with staff, the Chief Executive Officer and the Council's Finance Committee. Marie also oversees human resources and administration and is responsible for the agency's compliance with outside regulation. Marie has been recognized several times by our Council Board for excellence in managing SWWDC's financial affairs.



Before joining SWWDC, Marie held positions in public accounting, banking and private industry. She has also taught accounting in area community colleges.

Marie received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Hunter College in New York City and a post-baccalaureate CPA certification from Portland State University.

Reach Marie at mandrus@swwdc.org or 360.567.1075.

Support Job Training During Give More 24!



SEPTEMBER 18
SOUTHWEST
WASHINGTON'S
DAY TO GIVE



Did you know you can make donations to SWWDC to support our programs for adults and youth? Help us get the word out and show your support for SWWDC by making a donation on **September 18** during the region's first Give More 24 campaign.

The Community Foundation is asking the community to participate in a one-day online giving challenge. Go to www.give-more-24.org between 7 a.m. on September 18 and 6:59 a.m. on September 19 to donate to the SWWDC and other causes!

Questions? Contact Julia Maglione, Communications Manager, at jmaglione@swwdc.org or 360.567.3176.

Connecting Nonprofits to Workforce

Cowlitz County nonprofit organizations and social service agencies with clients in need of employment-related services are invited to a free Workforce Connections event **Tuesday, September 16 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** at the Cowlitz PUD Auditorium.



Sponsored by SWWDC, the goal of the event is to increase access to job-related resources for those most in need. Event attendees will learn about SWWDC, WorkSource and youth partners that provide employment-related services and job training and find out how their clients can access free services provided by these organizations. Nearly 60 people attended a similar event in Clark County in June.

RSVP by September 5 to Julia Maglione at jmaglione@swwdc.org or 360.567.3176.

Education & Workforce Event - Sept. 25

SWWDC Chief Executive Officer Jeanne Bennett will moderate a panel discussion at the *Vancouver Business Journal's* **September 25** Boardroom Executive Session.

The event, "Education & Workforce Development: Attracting, building & retaining the skills we need," is from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Brickstone Ballroom in Vancouver. Registration is \$45 and includes appetizers and beverages. [Click here to learn more](#) or go to www.vbjusa.com.

SWWDC Increases Key Industry Expertise

SWWDC has added 12 new members to enhance its collaboration with key growth industries and enable it to further align workforce training and employment services with industry needs.

"Adding representatives from manufacturing, IT/software, construction, transportation/logistics, health care and finance to our council gives us greater insight into the training and hiring needs for these industries," said John Vanderkin, SWWDC Council Chair. "It's important to have them at the table and we're pleased they're engaged in the workforce system."

New Council members are:

- Bob Carroll, Business Representative – IBEW Local Union 48
- Renny Christopher, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – WSU Vancouver
- Traci Eshelman, HR Manager – Thompson Metal Fab
- Kelley Foy, HR Manager – Columbia Machine
- Cliff Glass, Transportation Manager – UNFI
- Keath Huff, Systems Engineer and Account Manager – Utilize I.T., Inc.
- Mike Lemmons, Mortgage Loan Officer – Republic Mortgage Home Loans
- Michele Mulhern, Vocational Rehabilitation Lead Counselor – Dept. of Social and Health Services
- Denise Smith, Chief Operating Officer – Rebound Orthopedics & Neurosurgery
- Paige Spratt, Attorney – Immix Law Group PC
- Bruce Warrick, Continuous Improvement Manager – Kapstone Paper
- Ed Barnes, Clark County Commissioner, serves on the Executive Board of County Commissioners

[Click here to see the complete list of Council members.](#)

Philip A. Parker Memorial Scholarship Accepting Donations



To honor our friend and long-time board member Phil Parker, who passed away in April, SWWDC created the Philip A. Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The scholarships will help students interested in pursuing jobs in the trades.

Donations can be made by check, payable to SWWDC, (please note "Parker Memorial Scholarship Fund" on your check) and mailed to 805 Broadway, Suite 412, Vancouver, WA 98660. Attn: Accounting.

Job Opening: Employer Services Manager

After recently securing grants to fund programs for incumbent workers and long-term unemployed (and waiting to hear on a couple more), SWWDC has added a second Employer Services Manager (ESM) position and is seeking applicants.

The ESM is responsible for workforce development outreach and coordination with employers within Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. The ESM will research specific sectors to determine likely areas of growth in position openings and skill areas and create strategies to match resources to employer needs. The ESM will coordinate with WorkSource's Business Services Teams.

Apply through WorkSource by September 5. **[Click here to view the complete job description.](#)**

Youth Council Seeking Members



If you are looking for a way to help youth and young adults, the SWWDC Youth Council may be the place for you!

We are looking for members with:

- Industry expertise in manufacturing, software/IT or health care
- Experience with summer youth employment or internship programs
- Background working with disadvantaged, homeless or foster youth
- Interest in partnering with high schools and post-secondary education
- A desire to forge connections between business and education

Next meeting is **August 25**, 3-4:30 p.m. at Partners in Careers.

Contact Chelsea Chunn, Youth Initiatives Manager, at 360.567.1066 or cchunn@swwdc.org.

Workforce 101 Website Revamped

SWWDC's Workforce 101 website has received a facelift and new content. The site is designed to help job seekers, youth and veterans find free resources to improve skills and get a job.

Some of the site's features include:

- Online resume-building tools
- Employment-related trainings and workshops
- Skills assessments
- A forum to ask and answer questions

View the site at <http://workforce101.webs.com>.

Susan Dixon “Administrator of the Year”

Congratulations to our partner Susan Dixon, Evergreen Public Schools’ Career and Technical Education Director, on being honored as “Administrator of the Year” by the Washington Association for Career and Technical Education. [Read more.](#)

Goodwill Impacting Young Lives

Read a [Daily News’ article](#) about how Goodwill’s employment training programs are improving the lives of young people in Cowlitz County.

We’re proud to have Goodwill as one of our youth services partners!

Wahkiakum Community Center Opens

Congratulations to Ginger Hake and the Wahkiakum Community Network on the July 18 opening of the Wahkiakum Community Center! Among other things, the center will provide online job search and learning opportunities through computers provided by Lower Columbia College and SWWDC. A great new resource for Cathlamet and the entire community!

WSUV Community Celebration – Sept. 6



Help Washington State University Vancouver celebrate its 25th anniversary at a free community open house Saturday, September 6 from 3-8 p.m. Explore programs, labs, student clubs, financial aid and enjoy cake, ice cream, kid’s activities and live music.

To learn more, go to <http://www.vancouver.wsu.edu/25>

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Signed

A bipartisan bill that reauthorizes and amends the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was signed into law in July. The new legislation strengthens the connection between education and workforce and puts greater emphasis on serving out-of-school youth and incumbent workers, among other changes. Learn more at: http://wtb.wa.gov/Policy_Fed_WIA.asp.

In the News

See recent [coverage of the SWWDC and workforce projects](#).

SWWDC, a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, is the Workforce Investment Board for Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. SWWDC connects funding, state agencies, local service providers, colleges, economic development 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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