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IN OTHER NEWS

Council Meeting

December 10, 2014

October 2014

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

Join Us - October 28 - YouthBuild Launch!



Join SWWDC and Partners in Careers (PIC) as we co-host a ribbon cutting, followed by a Business After Hours with the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce (GVCC) to launch our \$1.1 million YouthBuild project. Come meet our other YouthBuild partners: Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, Innovative Services NW, Vancouver Housing Authority and WorkSource at PIC's location from 5 to 7 p.m. Ribbon cutting at 5 p.m. is free. After Hours is \$10 for GVCC members or \$20 for non-members. Register at www.vancouverusa.com.

4-6 p.m. at Partners in Careers, Vancouver. Click for details.

Strategic Plan 2014-17

Read SWWDC's Strategic Plan

Workforce 101 Website

Resources to help job seekers, youth and veterans improve skills to get a job.

Mission

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

Our Partners



Manufacturing Graduates for Hire



Certified Production Technician (CPT) graduates are ready for hire through our pilot Hire Plus! program. CPT graduates have completed the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council's training that certifies an individual's "core technical" manufacturing skills. The certification covers four modules: Safety, Quality Practices & Measurement, Manufacturing Processes & Production and Maintenance Awareness.

Companies that hire CPT graduates may qualify to receive On-the-Job Training (OJT) funds that can reimburse a portion of the new employee's salary as they learn skills customized to that business.

Thirteen students completed the CPT pilot program at Clark College at the end of September.

On October 8, Columbia Machine, Linear Technology, Alpha Iron, WaferTech, American Paper Converting, Employers Overload and AeroTek attended a meet-and-greet at WorkSource Vancouver to network with the CPT graduates.

To learn about hiring CPT graduates, contact John LeMarte at WorkSource 360.735.5060 or jlemarte@esd.wa.gov.

Training Pays for Columbia River Carbonates

Woodland-based Columbia River Carbonates (CRC) supplies calcium carbonate (limestone) products for the paper, paint, plastic and other industries in the northwestern U.S. and western Canada.

Through a Department of Labor grant to improve the skills of current manufacturing workers, SWWDC funded training for 21 CRC employees, including computer specialists, engineers, general and operations managers, logisticians, millwrights and sales managers.

"One of the nicest aspects of the grant was the flexibility of the type of training we were allowed to provide," said Jill Lee, CRC's grant coordinator. "Some were very technical and specialized and allowed an individual employee to gain valuable expertise, while others were more general, benefitting a group of employees."

Funds are currently available to train existing employees in H-1B

Questions/Comments?

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occupations in Advanced Manufacturing companies and businesses with Information Technology employees. **See the complete list of covered occupations** or contact Lee Ann Lawrence, Employer Services Manager, at llawrence@swwdc.org or 360.567.3170.

Julia Maglione, Communications Manager

As SWWDC's Communications Manager for the past year, Julia is responsible for media relations, event planning, electronic and print communications and collaborating with partners across the region to help inform businesses and individuals of workforce system services.



Her recent positions include communications manager at a local marketing firm, where her clients included nonprofits and small businesses. She was program manager in Clark College's Corporate and Continuing Education department and held communications positions with nonprofit organizations and public relations agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles.

Julia serves on the board of Leadership Clark County and is a 2012 graduate of the program. She is a Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) member and has been active with the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce (GVCC), East Vancouver Business Association (EVBA), Women Entrepreneurs Organization (WEO), International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) and the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Julia graduated from California State University Northridge with a bachelor's degree in journalism/public relations and a minor in business/marketing.

Reach Julia at jmaglione@swwdc.org or 360.567.3176.

Business-After-School: Connecting Youth & Industry

To help high school-aged youth learn about and explore high-growth industries, SWWDC and our partners in higher education, economic development and at chambers of commerce are planning Business-After-School events to expose students to hands-on learning outside of the classroom in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) careers.



Interested businesses will help sponsor the program and host two-hour after-school events at their locations, providing a combination of company tours, hands-on activities and career pathway discussions.

Business-After-School will launch February 16-18, 2015 with Engineering Week. Subsequent weeks of focus will be Healthcare in May, Manufacturing in October and Computer Science in December.

To participate, contact Chelsea Chunn, Youth Initiatives Manager, at cchunn@swwdc.org or 360.567.1066.

Innovation in Technology

Regionally, the IT/software/digital technology sectors are expected to grow by more than 30 percent in the next eight years, creating approximately 10,000 new jobs.

Locally, several innovative partnerships are focused on these growing industries:

Applied Digital Technology Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ):

The cities of Camas and Vancouver received designation from the State of Washington for an Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ) in Applied Digital Technology. The IPZ is bringing together research, workforce training, education, economic development, government and the private sector to help further grow the local high tech, digital and software industries, and help create local jobs in future years. Learn more at www.ipzgetin.com.

Southwest Washington STEM Network: Increasing global emphasis on STEM led to creation of the SW WA STEM Network, a consortium of K-12 and postsecondary education, business, workforce and economic development. The STEM Network’s mission is to engage learners in challenging, relevant and integrated STEM education, strengthen the STEM workforce pipeline and advocate for the value and importance of STEM skills to our community’s future. Learn more at www.swstemnetwork.org.



IT/Software/Digital Technology Sector Strategy: With our partners in the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Council (CWWC), SWWDC is bringing together IT/software/digital technology businesses, training providers, economic development agencies, education and other partners to identify industry workforce needs, coordinate strategies and develop a regional workforce plan. Contact Lee Ann Lawrence at 360.567.3170 or llawrence@swwdc.org.

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 and is accepting donations.

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.

Contact Chelsea Chunn at cchunn@swwdc.org or 360.567.1066.

PubTalk: The Funding Continuum Oct. 21

Register now for Clark County PubTalk! On Tuesday, Oct. 21 from 5-8 p.m. at the Fort Vancouver Artillery Barracks, 600 E Hatheway Rd., Vancouver, hear presentations from Eric Preisz, CEO of Garage Games and Martha Howe, CEO and Ryan Jarvis, president of ShopBox, as well as entrepreneur and investor, Jon Maroney. For details and to register, go to www.credc.org and click the "Events Tab."



Manufacturing in the Spotlight

During National Manufacturing Day on October 3, local youth learned about careers in manufacturing and the skills and education they'll need to get the jobs of the future. Events were held as part of a national grassroots movement by manufacturing companies to improve awareness and public perception of manufacturing careers and manufacturing's value to the U.S. economy.

Twenty youth from Clark County programs at Educational Service District 112, Partners In Careers and Innovative Services NW participated in tours of Columbia Machine and Silicon Forest Electronics, then heard a presentation by SEH America and donned clean room bunny suits (see photo below).

In Cowlitz County, seven youth from Goodwill and ESD112 programs attended a showcase at Lower Columbia College and an industry panel lunch with Peterbilt, Selway, Ellison, Rightline and Central Welding, followed by a tour of the college's machining, welding and diesel/heavy equipment technology programs. Students then traveled to PortCo. in Woodland for a tour and demonstrations of the process for manufacturing and distributing food packaging.

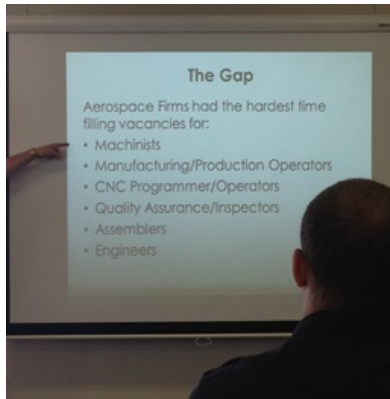
Manufacturing companies interested in connecting with youth should contact Chelsea Chunn, Youth Initiatives Manager, at 360.567.1066 or cchunn@swwdc.org.



S.E.H. America



Silicon Forest Electronics



The Skills Gap



Columbia Machine

Get Involved in the Workforce Accountability Committee

Are you looking for a way to get engaged and help people get connected to jobs and job training programs? SWWDC's Workforce Accountability Committee may be right for you!

We are seeking members with:

- Industry expertise in manufacturing, software/IT or health care
- Experience with employment services or training programs
- Background working with people from diverse backgrounds

- Experience with program measurement and/or management
- A desire to forge connections between business and job seekers

Meetings are held quarterly. To learn more, contact Tim Foley, Director of Workforce Service, 360.567.1076 or tfoley@swwdc.org.

Growing STEM to Meet Region's Needs

A 2013 report by Washington Roundtable of business and industry leaders showed 25,000 jobs in the state are unfilled due to a lack of qualified candidates. Of those jobs, 80 percent were in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). That gap is expected to grow, as students aren't choosing those fields because they don't understand the careers available and aren't receiving exposure to them.

Both of our community colleges are growing to meet the increasing demand for individuals with training in STEM. Lower Columbia College unveiled its new Health & Science Building on September 20. [Read the press release.](#)

Clark College recently broke ground on its new 70,000 square foot STEM building and estimates opening by July 2016. [Learn more.](#)



**Lower Columbia College
Health & Science Building**



**Clark College STEM Building
(Rendering)**

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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