

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

NEWS

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December 2014

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

Seeking YouthBuild Applicants - Program will Train & Educate High School Dropouts



YouthBuild Vancouver will help Clark County residents, ages 17-24, that are high school dropouts and have barriers, including being homeless and/or involved in the court or foster systems to:

- Earn their high school diploma or GED
- Gain skills to obtain two nationally-recognized construction certifications (NCCER)
- Build two homes through partnership with Habitat for Humanity
- Receive employment coaching and other support to get a job or apprenticeship

Information sessions for interested youth will be held January 8, 15 and 20 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. To register, call Dave Cole at Partners in Careers at 360.696.8417 x128.

Forecast Breakfast

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IN OTHER NEWS

Council Meeting

December 10, 2014
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



YouthBuild Needs You!

You can make a difference in the life of a young person! Support YouthBuild with a donation of classroom supplies, construction materials, bus passes, cash, clothing and more.

We are also seeking construction companies and home builders to provide construction site tours, assist in trainings, be mentors, give talks to students and help with "women in industry" sessions for the young women in the group.

Contact Dave Cole at dave@swwpic.org or 360.696.8417 for a complete list of needs and to find out how you can help build our future workforce!

Help us Get the Word Out to the Long-term Unemployed!

As mentioned in prior newsletters, SWWDC secured several grants to help individuals who have been unemployed for long periods of time. Now we need to connect with those individuals so they can benefit from WorkSource services and trainings.



Who do you know that was working steadily before the recession in 2008 but since then has been struggling to find employment and has been out of work a total of 27 weeks or more? Please suggest they contact WorkSource!

Clark County residents: Attend a WIA information session, held every Friday (except Dec. 26) at 1 p.m. or contact Noel Woods at 360.735.5034 or nwoods@esd.wa.gov.

Cowlitz and Wahkiakum residents: Contact Tina Cruz at 360.578.4254 or tcruz@esd.wa.gov.

Apply for Funds to Train Your IT or Manufacturing Workers

More than 600 workers at 15 local companies have benefitted from training funded by the ProSTEP Employee Training Assistance Fund through the SWWDC.



Questions/Comments?

Julia Maglione
Communications Manager
jmaglione@swwdc.org

SWWDC

360.567.1070
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www.swwdc.org

ProSTEP offsets employers' training costs for employees in high-growth, high-demand IT/software and manufacturing occupations.

Funds have enabled companies to implement robust, customized trainings that improve employee skills. After the trainings, employers report systems improvements and increased job satisfaction.

Trainings have included: Leadership, Lean, Excel, technical writing, software certifications, machining, CAD/CAM Automation, IPC certification, TWI certification, sales and marketing, inventory and auditing and project management.

To see if your company qualifies for ProSTEP, contact Lee Ann Lawrence, Employer Services Manager, at llawrence@swwdc.org or 360.567.3170.

Engineering Week: Connect with Youth at Events on Feb. 16-18, 2015

Engineering firms and companies that employ large numbers of engineers are invited to highlight your company as a Business After School (BAS) Engineering Week Sponsor.

Companies are asked to sponsor the week for \$250 or \$500 and host a two-hour event at your location that will include a company tour, hands-on activity and discussion of education, skills and job prospects to help expose young people ages 14-21 to jobs and industries they might not know exist.

Subsequent weeks of focus will be Healthcare in May, Manufacturing in October and Computer Science in December.

To participate, download a sponsorship application at www.swwdc.org by clicking the "Business After School" link in the left column or contact Chelsea Chunn, Youth Initiatives Manager, at cchunn@swwdc.org or 360.567.1066.

Certified Production Technicians (CPT) for Hire



After completing training and earning certifications in Safety, Maintenance Awareness, Quality Practices & Measurement, and Manufacturing Processes & Production, WorkSource has Certified Production Technician candidates available for hire.

To arrange an interview or learn about the program, contact John LeMarte at WorkSource 360.735.5060 or jlemarte@esd.wa.gov.

Amy Gimlin, Data & Compliance Manager

As SWWDC's Data & Compliance Manager since 2007, Amy Gimlin monitors all workforce contractors for compliance with funding rules and regulations, processes all contracts and grant documents, develops policies, serves as the organization's administrator and training coordinator on the State of Washington's SKIES information management system and analyzes performance data for reports.



Before joining SWWDC full-time, Amy worked with the organization as a contractor and wrote a SKIES manual and provided technical assistance to workforce investment act (WIA) contractors. Amy began her career in workforce development as a Quality Control Specialist in ESD112's WIA Youth Program.

Amy lives at the base of Mt. Adams in Glenwood with her husband and two daughters. They enjoy the quiet atmosphere and country living, including snowmobiling in the winter and horseback or four-wheeler rides in the summer.

Reach Amy at agimlin@swwdc.org or 360.567.1059.

Manufacturers Needed for Industry Panel



To ensure the current regional Manufacturing Plan is aligned with the needs of manufacturers, SWWDC is seeking manufacturers to give input during an industry panel in January 2015.

If you are interested in guiding the activities of the plan and strengthening the manufacturing workforce, please contact Lee Ann Lawrence, SWWDC's Employer Services Manager, at llawrence@swwdc.org or 360.567.3170.

\$210,230 Grant to Help Youth with Career Planning and Skills Development

Approximately 71 percent of the skilled labor workforce in our three-county region is expected to retire in the next five years, making it critical that our young people are ready to go to work in industries

facing a significant labor shortage.

To help our youth learn about career and education choices and build their skills and work experience, SWWDC, the STEM Network and WorkSource partnered on a grant application and were recently awarded more than \$210,000.

The YouthWorks program will enable Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum youth, ages 16-24, to map out their career goals, participate in mentorships, learn about post-secondary and vocational education, connect to industry and gain real-world transferable skills through work-based learning and internships at local businesses.

Learn more from Chelsea Chunn at cchunn@swwdc.org.

Goodwill Career Center Opening Dec. 11

Join Goodwill on Thursday, December 11 from 8 to 11 a.m. at their Vancouver Career Center opening at 6425 NE 4th Plain Blvd., Vancouver. The event will include a ribbon cutting with the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, followed by a facility tour and light breakfast. RSVP to demanuel@gicw.org.



The center is a free resource for Clark County residents and provides consultation and training to increase job skills and employability, including job readiness assessments, GED prep, Microsoft certification and national career readiness certificates (NCRC). Learn more at www.meetgoodwill.org.

CREDC Q4 Luncheon: The Value of Vision Monday, December 15

Hear from featured panelists who will highlight the importance of creating and implementing strategic plans for the future from the perspective of jurisdictions throughout Clark County:

- Moderator: John White
- Todd Coleman, CEO, Port of Vancouver
- Chad Eiken, Director of Community and Economic Development, City of Vancouver
- Scott Higgins, Mayor, City of Camas
- Steve Stuart, City Manager, City of Ridgefield

The event will be held at the Heathman Lodge in Vancouver from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided. [Click here to register](#).

Global Workforce Lessons

Germany has long been a model of innovation in vocational training, apprenticeships and public-private collaborations around workforce development.



SWWDC's CEO, Jeanne Bennett, joined 40 business, civic and government leaders from across the U.S. in November at the third annual convening of the Global Cities Initiative (GCI) in Munich, Germany.

GCI, a joint project of the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase, launched in 2012 to equip leaders with the information, policy ideas and connections they need to compete in the global economy.

To learn best practices of German workforce innovations, the group toured companies, including Siemens and BMW, in Munich and Nuremberg, Germany. She plans to share what she learned with local business and community leaders in the coming months.

To learn more, contact Jeanne Bennett at jbennett@swwdc.org or 360.567.1070.

Photo: SWWDC CEO Jeanne Bennett (right) with Amy Cell of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation during a trip to Germany. Photo courtesy of Brookings Institute GCI.

Meet the Experts at PubTalk on Dec. 16

At the next PubTalk, the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) will bring together financial and legal experts to discuss tactics around growing your business while planning for the future.



Join them Tuesday, December 16 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Fort Vancouver Artillery Barracks, 600 E Hatheway Road, Vancouver. To register, go to www.credc.org and click the "Events Tab."

January 22 Columbian Economic Forecast Breakfast



SWWDC CEO, Jeanne Bennett, will moderate a panel on "Prospects and Challenges for Large Employers" at the Columbian's annual economic

forecast breakfast.

Panelists include John Rudi, President of Thompson Metal Fab; Bryce Helgerson, Chief Administrative Officer of Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center; SWWDC council member Ben Bagherpour, Vice President of Operations at SEH America and Jason Koenders, Sr. Vice President of Engineering & Network Planning for Integra.

Purchase tickets at www.columbian.com/economicforecast.

Exporters Can Receive \$5,000 Reimbursement



The Washington State Department of Commerce's "State Trade & Export Promotion" offers eligible small businesses export vouchers to support their international trade activities. Vouchers reimburse companies new to exporting or expanding into new export

markets up to \$5,000 for export-related expenses, with a minimum 25 percent cash match requirement.

For information, visit www.ExportWashington.com or contact Julie Monahan at julie.monahan@commerce.wa.gov or 206.256.6147.

Ted Feller to Lead SW WA STEM Network



Beginning January, Ted Feller will assume the reigns as Executive Director of the SW WA STEM Network, a role he has been serving on an interim basis since August.

He will continue the organization's mission to promote and advocate for challenging, relevant and integrated STEM learning experiences for students in the region.

Ted joined the Evergreen Public Schools team in 2010 as the Executive Director of Secondary Education.

He was Associate Director of Assessment and Curriculum in the Centennial School District in Portland, Oregon from 2007-2010. His experience includes three years as principal of Fowler Middle School and three years as principal of Mary Woodward Elementary School, both in Oregon's Tigard-Tualatin School District. Previous to that, he was with the Portland Public Schools as principal, Alternative Education Program Coordinator, Student Management Specialist and teacher.

Ted earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Willamette University and a Master of Arts and Doctor of Education from Portland State University. He has an Initial Superintendent Certificate in Washington and Continuing Administrative License in Oregon.

Reach Ted at 360-604-4035 ext. 4640 or
Theodore.Feller@evergreenps.org.

Happy 50th Anniversary to CAP!



Congratulations to Executive Director Ilona Kerby and the Lower Columbia Community Action Program (CAP) team on 50 years of service to our community!

Over the years, Lower Columbia CAP has started a number of programs that grew into important, vital community organizations, including the Family Health Center, Emergency Support Shelter, Ethnic Support Council, Head Start and the Saturday Farmers Market. We appreciate and thank them for all they do. Here's to 50 more! Learn about CAP at www.lowercolumbiacap.org.

Supervisor Training Starts January 29 at LCC

Today's supervisor is usually a top performer who gets promoted with little or no training on how to be an effective leader. Offered by Lower Columbia College, the five-part series "From co-worker to supervisor – what you need to know" will provide new and potential supervisors a solid foundation to build their leadership abilities. The series runs January 29 through February 26, 2015 and costs \$675.

Register at www.lowercolumbia.edu/ce or contact Mary Harris at 360.442.2602 or mharris@lowercolumbia.edu or Jennifer Murray at 360-442-2600.

New Vancouver Location for Cowlitz Tribe



COWLITZ INDIAN TRIBE

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe is having an Open House at their new Vancouver office on Tuesday, January 13, 2015

from 2 to 6 p.m. Visit them at 7700 NE 26th Avenue, Vancouver. Call 360.397.8228 for information.

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 to fund scholarships for 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.

Questions? Contact Chelsea Chunn at cchunn@swwdc.org.

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.