



workforce

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Investing in employment and job training services
for businesses, job seekers and youth in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.



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October 2016

Construction Businesses Sought for Survey and October 25 Workforce Meeting



Clackamas
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Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) and its partners in the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC) are convening construction industry experts to develop a regional plan to address workforce challenges and identify opportunities in the construction industry. The resulting plan will guide the direction and investments of the public workforce system for the next several years.

A launch meeting will be held Tuesday, October 25 from 8-10 a.m. at Hoffman Construction in Portland. **Please RSVP by October 18** by clicking this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/construction-industry-convening-tickets-27340615517>.

In addition, it is critical that first-hand information related to workforce needs and opportunities be gathered from construction employers and other stakeholders. If you are an employer in the construction industry, **please respond to this survey by October 18** so we can learn more about your current workforce as well as your top workforce priorities: [Construction/Infrastructure Workforce Survey](#).

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WorkSource Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Ribbon Cutting & Open House October 13

WorkSource
Cowlitz-
Wahkiakum

You're
invited!

WorkSource Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Ribbon Cutting and Open House

Please join us for an open house at our new location!




When:
Thursday, October 13, 2016
 3:00 p.m. - Ribbon cutting
 3:00-5:00 p.m. - Open house

Where:
WorkSource Cowlitz-Wahkiakum
 305 S. Pacific Avenue, Suite B
 Kelso, WA 98626


Enjoy refreshments and learn about no-cost employment and training services available to businesses and individuals.

No cost to attend. Please RSVP by October 10.

RSVP to Lindsey Summerhill
 360-735-4952 or lsummerhill@esd.wa.gov



A partner of the [americanjobcenter](#) network



WorkSource is an equal-opportunity partnership of organizations that provide employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to people with disabilities. Washington Relay Service: 711

WorkSource Cowlitz-Wahkiakum has moved down the hall in the building where they've been located and will hold a ribbon cutting and open house on October 13 in their new location - **Suite B** at 305 S. Pacific Avenue in Kelso.

OTHER NEWS

Board Meeting

Dec. 14, 2016, 4-6 p.m.
 Partners in Careers in
 Vancouver [Click for
 details](#)

Mission

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

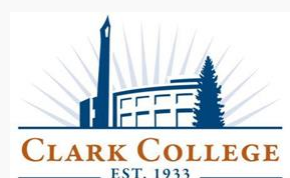
Business Goes Back to School with Kelso Longview Chamber and WSW

Come see what's changed and how students are being prepared for life after high school. Space is limited and registration is required.

Sign up at

<http://www.kelsolongviewchamber.org/event/business-back-2-school-kelso-high-school>.

Our Partners



Join us for a tour of Kelso High School Career & Technical Education! This is a great opportunity for you to see and experience how education has changed over the past 40 plus years.

**October 13, 2016
Kelso High School**

Tentative Schedule:

8:30 am – Meet at Lowe's Parking Lot, Ocean Beach Hwy.
8:45 am – Bus departs for Kelso High School: Welcome and Review Class Schedule
9:00 am – Arrive at Kelso High
9:15 am – 9:45 am – Period 1: Workshop
9:50 am – 10:14 am – Period 2: Facility Tour
10:18 am – 10:58 am – Period 3: Attend your third period assignment
10:58 am – 11:28 am – Period 4: Attend your fourth period assignment
11:28 am – 1:30 pm – Lunch Period: Q&A, debriefing, evaluation
1:30 pm – Bus back to Parking Lot

Class Options Include:

- Ag & Natural Resources
- Automotive
- Business
- Marketing & Visual Tech
- Industrial Tech
- Family & Consumer Science
- STEM Programs



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Cost is \$15 and includes bus ride, coffee, lunch.
Bus ride to the school is mandatory - parking is extremely limited
Sign up today at www.kelsolongviewchamber.org

**Future
Business Back 2 School**

Mark Morris High School: February 9, 2017
Discovery High - R.A. Long High School: May 11, 2017

**KELSO LONGVIEW
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Supply Chain Conference October 20



The Pacific Northwest Defense Coalition (PNDC) is holding a Supply Chain Conference Thursday, October 20 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Portland Airport.

Through a combination of presentations and roundtable discussions, the conference is designed to help companies develop new knowledge, new contacts, and most importantly, new business. In addition, several 25-minute roundtable discussions with other peer manufacturers create a unique opportunity for making connections.

Featuring presentations from:

- Chris O'Claire, VP of Operations & Supply Chain Director, Esterline Control & Communication Systems
- Denise Cooper, Procurement Governance, Daimler Trucks North America



Comments/Questions?

Julia Maglione
Communications Manager
jmaglione@workforcesw.org

- Robin Tate, Director of Materials, FLIR Systems
- Stacy Johnson, Purchasing Manager, GK Machine

[Click here for more information and to register](#) or visit www.pndc.us.

WSW Welcomes New Cowlitz Board Member

Bob Gustainis, District Manager with Walgreens, has joined the WSW Board of Directors and will represent private sector business in Cowlitz County.

Bob manages 14 stores and 300 employees in Cowlitz and Clark counties and has more than 30 years of retail and management experience.



"We are very pleased to have Bob join our board," said Jeanne Bennett, WSW CEO. "His background and experience collaborating with schools and developing employee training programs at Walgreens gives him a unique perspective of the need for businesses to provide training for their employees."

[Click to see a complete list of WSW Board members.](#)

Cowlitz County Veterans Expo & Stand Down October 18

The Cowlitz County Veterans Expo & Stand Down is a one-day event providing resources, referrals and services to veterans, service members, veteran widows, their families and homeless veterans.

The event will be held at Calvary Chapel, 902 Ash Street in Kelso on Tuesday, October 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rite Aid Pharmacy in Longview will be supplying free flu shots for homeless veterans and lunch will be provided for veterans.

Learn more at <http://cowlitzveteranstanddown.com/> or by calling 360.423.2434.

Washington Workforce Conference to be Held November 9-10



The Washington Workforce Association's Workforce Conference brings together Federal, State and local workforce development partners to continue to build on effective practices and develop new strategies and programming for serving businesses, youth and job seekers.

The conference is focused on key areas of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that emphasize the importance of partnerships and collaboration in meeting customer needs.

The conference will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Seattle.

- [View Event Summary](#)
- [View Program](#)
- [Register for the conference](#)

Contact Kathy DiJulio at Kathy@washingtonworkforce.org.

Ben Bagherpour Receives GVCC Community Champion Award

The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce (GVCC) honored six recipients with "Business & Leadership Awards" during its annual dinner. Among the honorees was Workforce Southwest Washington board member, Ben Bagherpour of SEH America.



According to a GVCC news release, Ben was recognized as a champion of career development for our community's young people. He promotes workforce development in the advanced manufacturing industry and over the past five years, has been a driving force for innovative educational activities and projects that have helped prepare youth for their next steps beyond high school.

His commitment resulted in development of an internship program that has allowed hundreds of students with no knowledge of advanced manufacturing to work alongside SEH mentors in a project-based learning environment and receive college credits. These programs have improved students' employability and leadership skills that are critical in the workforce.

Photo (l to r): GVCC CEO John McDonagh, Ben Bagherpour and Jared Larrabee of Vancouver Energy, sponsor of the Community Champion award.
Photo by Grant Mott Photography, provided compliments of GVCC.

New WorkSource Website Aids Dollar Tree in Hiring Veterans



Before attending training to learn how the new WorkSourceWA.com website could help her find and hire new employees, Laura Heine, HR Administrator at Dollar Tree, had located résumés of 20 potential candidates on the

system. She sent each a personalized email inviting them to apply for positions at Dollar Tree.

During the training, Laura learned about the mass email feature that will save her time when contacting applicants. She also found out the system allows her to check when a résumé was last updated.

Five candidates responded to Laura's email; one of them was Daniel Broadwater. With the help of WorkSource case manager Monique Martin, Daniel completed the application process and was hired as a General Warehouse Associate.

WorkSourceWA.com also enabled Kyria McGill, Dollar Tree's Human Resources Manager, to review a Supply and Demand list of prevailing wages in the area and gauge the competitiveness of salaries at her company.

Businesses interested in learning more about how WorkSource can help with candidate screening and hiring can contact Darcy Hoffman, WorkSource Business Services Manager, at dhoffman@esd.wa.gov or 360.735.5038.

Photo: Dollar Tree receives a YesVets window decal for hiring three veterans this year. (l to r): Casey Shirley, General Manager; Daniel Broadwater, Navy Veteran; Michael Benko, WorkSource Veterans Employment Rep; John Hartley, Order Selection Manager (former Marine, receiving the decal) and Kyria McGill, HR Manager

Hiring Veterans is Proud Tradition at Corwin

A long-time community supporter, Corwin Beverage started working with the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and Hero2Hired programs in 2009. At that time, about three percent of its workforce were veterans. Their goal was to reach five percent.

Corwin has surpassed that as 7.25 percent of its current workforce are veterans. Their new goal is to reach 10 percent by 2018.



As a company that actively hires veterans, Corwin signed up for the YesVets program which recognizes the commitment of businesses that hire veterans by providing a decal to display at their location.

To participate, a company signs up at www.YesVets.org and provides information about veterans they've hired since February 1, 2016. A WorkSource representative then contacts them to arrange presentation of the decal.

YesVets, a statewide campaign to hire veterans, is supported by the Employment Security Department in partnership with Washington Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Commerce, Washington State Military Transition Council and local chambers of commerce.

To learn about hiring veterans, contact Michael Benko, WorkSource Veterans Employment Representative, at mbenko@esd.wa.gov.

For information about the YesVets program, go to <https://esd.wa.gov/yesvets>.

Corwin Beverage is celebrating 75 years in business. Learn more at www.corwinbevco.com.

Photo (l to r): Corwin CEO Keith Richards, HR Manager Stacey Jacques; new hire Merchandiser and current Army National Guard Member Jennifer Alexander; Michael Benko WorkSource Veterans Employment Rep; new hire Chris Mayton VP in Sales and Navy Veteran

Save the Date: LEAP Program Ribbon Cutting on November 16

A ribbon cutting will be held November 16 to launch an innovative new program called Linking to Employment Activities Pre-release or LEAP.

The two-year Department of Labor grant will bring WorkSource employment and job services into the Clark County Jail to help inmates learn skills to reintegrate into the community and connect with employment and support services after release.

The event will take place at 3 p.m. in the Clark County Councilors Hearing Room on the 6th floor of 1300 Franklin Street in Vancouver. It will be followed by a brief program and networking.

RSVP for the ribbon cutting by November 14 to Julia Maglione at jmaglione@workforcesw.org.

To learn more about the program, contact Chelsea Chunn, Director of Workforce Services, at cchunn@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1066.

[Click here to read a Columbian article about the grant award.](#)

LongtermcareNW.org is portal to Jobs and Career Opportunities



As part of its work with the long-term care industry, Workforce Southwest Washington and its Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative partners launched www.longtermcarenw.org.

The website contains information about the myriad opportunities in long-term care for first-time job seekers, career changers and those who wish to advance in their current health care careers.

Other features of the site include:

- An interactive quiz to help individuals identify long-term care jobs that might be a good fit for them.
- A career pathways page describing salary ranges and training needed for various long-term care positions in caregiving, support and administrative services, facilities and culinary services.
- A searchable list of employers that offer different types of positions.

To learn more, visit www.longtermcarenw.org.

Manufacturers Connect with the Next Generation

In honor of National Manufacturing Day, Partners in Careers, Workforce Southwest Washington and the Southwest Washington STEM Network hosted a Manufacturing Knowledge Fair on October 6 for young adults ages 16-24.

The event introduced manufacturing to the next generation. Students had opportunities to learn about the industry, available occupations and education required through interactive presentations and Q&A with local manufacturing businesses Cadet, Columbia Machine, Kyocera, nLight, Pacific Power Group, SEH America and UL.

Clark College's mechatronics program and WorkSource were also present for students to learn about education and training programs.

More than 250 students from Vancouver Public Schools, Evergreen Public Schools, Camas School District, Battleground School District, Washougal School District and students attending alternative schooling at Partners in Careers participated.

Companies wishing to be involved in future events for young adults can contact Morgan Parker with Partners in Careers at morgan@swwpic.org or 360.696.8417.

Manufacturing businesses interested in learning about workforce development activities in Southwest Washington should contact Cass Parker, Employer Services Manager at Workforce Southwest Washington, at cparker@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1076.

Every Day can be Manufacturing Day

October 7 was national Manufacturing Day, but any day in October is a great time to raise awareness of manufacturing and inspire the next generation to learn about career opportunities.



Manufacturing companies are encouraged to host an event or open house in October. Resources are available at www.mfgday.com to make your event a success.

Information Sessions for Manufacturing and Technology Jobs Training Program



Individuals who have been out of work more than six months and are interested in obtaining skills to get jobs in technology, software, engineering or manufacturing are invited to attend a free information session at either WorkSource location or at Lower Columbia College.

The sessions are being offered at:

WorkSource in Kelso: Mondays, 1:30-3 p.m., WorkSource, 305 S. Pacific Avenue, Suite B, Kelso. Contact Tammi Leclerc at tleclerc@esd.wa.gov or 360.578.4256.

WorkSource in Vancouver: Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m., WorkSource, 204 SE Stonemill Drive, Suite 215, Vancouver. Contact Jacob Miller at jamiller@esd.wa.gov or 360.735.5084.

Lower Columbia College (LCC): Beginning November 1, first and third Tuesdays, 2 p.m., LCC Career Services in the Admissions Center, 1600 Maple Street, Longview. Call 360.442.2330.

Applicants must be a resident of Clark, Cowlitz or Wahkiakum counties, at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma or GED.

RebootNW offers individualized training, education and networking opportunities. Learn more by attending an information session or visit www.RebootNW.org.

Coming Soon: Request for Proposals for WIOA Youth Services Providers

Workforce Southwest Washington will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) in December for WIOA Youth Out-of-School Services.



Please check www.workforcesw.org beginning in early December for the RFP and information on the bidder conference.

For additional information, contact Miriam Martin, Youth Initiatives Manager, at mmartin@workforcesw.org or 360.567.3183.

YouthBuild Completes First House

The first of two houses YouthBuild Vancouver participants will build for low-income families enrolled with Evergreen Habitat for Humanity is complete and the mother and her two young sons have moved into their new home.

Senator Patty Murray visited the house as the finishing touches were being made. KGW News covered the Senator's visit. Click the link to see the broadcast [**YouthBuild Vancouver at Work – At-risk Vancouver teens build a house.**](#)

Read more about the house dedication ceremony in *The Columbian* article [**Habitat for Humanity teams with YouthBuild.**](#)

YouthBuild Vancouver helps at-risk young people ages 16 to 24 obtain high school diplomas or GEDs and learn construction and other work-related skills through academic trainings, on-site work experiences and community service activities. YouthBuild is a collaboration between Workforce Southwest Washington, Partners in Careers, Evergreen Habitat for Humanity, Second Step Housing and WorkSource.

The second YouthBuild house is under construction and should be completed later this year.

For additional information, contact Miriam Martin, WSW's Youth Initiatives Manager, at mmartin@workforcesw.org or 360.567.3183.



A YouthBuild student works at the Habitat house.



Building a picnic table for a family's new home.



A YouthBuild student cuts lumber for a picnic table.



The YouthBuild team and the picnic table they built for Melinda Patterson and her two boys.



Senator Patty Murray speaks with new homeowner Melinda Patterson at the house dedication.



The YouthBuild team with Senator Murray and the Patterson family at the YouthBuild house.

Business Solutions Services Contract Awarded

A consortium led by ResCare Workforce Services has been awarded the contract to provide business services for the WorkSource centers in Southwest Washington under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.

The consortium includes the Employment Security Department, Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and the Kelso Longview Chamber of Commerce.

To learn more, contact Chelsea Chunn, Director of Workforce Services, at cchunn@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1066.

WorkSource Operator Contract Awarded

The Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) has been chosen as the Operator for the Southwest Washington WorkSource centers in Kelso and Vancouver under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker programs.

To learn more, contact Chelsea Chunn, Director of Workforce Services, at cchunn@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1066.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to Launch New Youth Transitions Program

In response to WIOA legislation, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) has created a new position – Transition Consultant – to collaborate with Educational Service Districts to provide pre-employment services for youth. Emilie Ruehs will be working with ESD 112 on programs for Southwest Washington students and will be based in the Vancouver DVR office.

Learn more about school transition services at www.dshs.wa.gov/ra/dvr/school-transition/dvr-faq.

If you have questions about the new pre-employment transition services DVR is beginning to provide, contact Lori Magnuson, Secondary Transition Program Manager, at the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation magnul@dshs.wa.gov or contact the DVR supervisor in your area. A list of DVR office supervisors is available at www.dshs.wa.gov/RA/dvr/find-an-office.

In other news, congratulations to Bianca Kolle who is the new Vocational Rehabilitation Supervisor in the DVR's Vancouver office. Reach her at kolleb@dshs.wa.gov.

Clark College Hosts Business Web Practices Speaker Series



Clark College's Computer Technology Department and the Business Web Practices class invite the community to hear the stories of those who help create our web-driven world.

In this free series, business leaders and those with successful careers in web development will provide their insights on opportunities and challenges facing those who practice commerce and provide services for our local communities.

Programs take place every Wednesday during Fall quarter at 4:30 p.m. in the Foster Auditorium on the main Clark College campus.

[Click here to see the list of programs and speakers.](#)

Workforce Resources

- **Media Coverage:** **<http://workforcesw.org/about-workforce-sw-washington/news#news-tab-section>**
- **News Releases:** **<http://workforcesw.org/about-workforce-sw-washington/news#news-tab-section>**
- **Newsletters:** **<http://workforcesw.org/about-workforce-sw-washington/news/newsletters-archive>**

WorkSource Workshop Calendars

- **[Clark County](#)**
- **[Cowlitz-Wahkiakum](#)**

WSW, a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, contributes to regional economic growth by providing investments and resources to improve the skills and education of the workforce in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.

WSW programs help businesses find and hire the employees they need and provide people the skills, education and training to find work or advance in their careers.

WSW partners with employers, community colleges and universities, labor groups, government and economic development agencies, high schools and community organizations to provide employment and training services to businesses, job seekers and youth.

Workforce Southwest Washington
805 Broadway, Suite 412 | Vancouver, WA 98660 | 360.567.1070 | www.workforcesw.org