



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

DECEMBER 2023 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

July 2022 – June 2023 Impact Report

Explore data and insights on our regional workforce development system

In the last program year, we invested over \$5 million in training and career services for youth and adults, bringing services to 1,234 individuals across 10 system locations. Business services, including employee recruitment, training and placement assistance, layoff aversion and other services, were offered to 349 businesses through WSW and our partners at [WorkSource](#).

2022 - 2023 Impact Report





13 businesses awarded funding to host Future Leaders Project interns in summer 2024

The Future Leaders Project (FLP) is an initiative of Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), [Columbia River Economic Development Council \(CREDC\)](#) and [Washington State University Vancouver \(WSU Vancouver\)](#) that seeks to connect students from communities who have experienced longstanding inequities and exclusion and first-generation college students with employer-sponsored summer internships, providing growth and professional development opportunities.

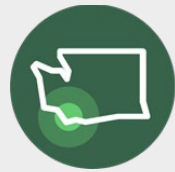
We are excited to announce that 13 businesses will receive funding to help subsidize the cost of hosting a FLP intern during Summer 2024, thanks to the generous support from the [JPMorgan Chase Foundation](#).

Businesses receiving funding this summer include:

- [Association of Science Communicators](#)
- [Building Futures Foundation](#)
- [Clark County Food Bank](#)
- [Fourth Plain Forward](#)
- [Greater Vancouver Chamber](#)
- [Hello Life Eating Disorder Recovery Services](#)
- [Matrix Roof & Home](#)
- [Nut-Tritious Foods](#)
- [Partners in Careers](#)

- [PointNorth](#)
- [Southwest Washington Contractors Association](#)
- [TwinStar Credit Union](#)
- [Vancouver Farmers Market](#)

Businesses interested in hosting an intern for summer 2024 should contact Senior Project Manager Nolan Yaws-Gonzalez at nyaws-gonzalez@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1066.



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

Job Opportunity: Construction as a Career Program Manager

WSW and [Southwest Washington Contractors Association](#) (SWCA) are excited to announce our collaboration and joint funding of a new position at SWCA – Construction as a Career Program Manager!

This position will lead workforce development efforts on behalf of both organizations in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties to ensure residents of Southwest Washington are prepared for, and have access to, high-quality jobs in construction.

[Learn more and apply](#)

Meet Racheal, WSW's Staff Accountant!



WSW is pleased to welcome **Racheal Andersen** to the team! Racheal joins the fiscal team as a Staff Accountant.

Racheal comes from a background in procurement and accounting across multiple roles. She recently achieved a master's degree in accounting. Her experience equips her with a mix of knowledge, skills and abilities, offering a well-rounded perspective.

Racheal finds fulfillment in facing and overcoming challenges, solving problems and improving processes. She embraces opportunity to think critically, analyze situations and learn continually.

Outside of work, Racheal enjoys spending time with her husband, cuddling her cats, running and camping.

Get in touch with Racheal by email at randersen@workforcesw.org or by phone at 360.567.3182.

Workforce training gives new hope, life for Raul Barasa: How barbering changed one man's life



Day-to-day Raul Barasa cuts hair at his shop, [Chico's Barbershop](#). He spends time with his customers, discussing life while clipping locks. "Hair-apy," he calls it, a play on the therapeutic nature for his clients and himself.

Today, Barasa is a successful small business owner, a reflection of his hard work in the face of barriers and obstacles throughout his employment journey.

[Read more](#)

Washington wages warm up: Minimum wage rises in 2024

On January 1, 2024, Washingtonians will see a 3.4% increase in the minimum wage, a raise from \$15.74 to \$16.28 for workers ages 16 and over.

Washington allows employers to pay workers aged 14 or 15 85% of the minimum wage. For this age group, the minimum wage will rise to \$13.84 at the start of 2024.

Washington minimum wage will increase to

\$16.28 per hour

as of January 1, 2024

[Read more](#)



Recovery Grant: Program uplifts and supports individuals in recovery, affected by the opioid crisis

Supporting our community members in recovery and those affected by the opioid crisis is vital to the economic success of our region. The goal of the recovery grant was to provide individualized career coaching, planning, training and employment opportunities to individuals facing barriers to economic stability and prosperity, specifically to those whose lives have been impacted by opioid addiction. Programs funded through the grant provided support services and wrap-around assistance to increase successful employment outcomes both in the near and long term.

[Read more](#)

Next

Next is hiring a Business Development Specialist in Cowlitz County!

Our partners at [Goodwill of the Olympics & Rainier Region](#) are hiring a Business Development Specialist to work with [Next](#) in Cowlitz County!

The Business Development Specialist will build and maintain relationships with businesses, partners and community to assess needs and create opportunities for youth, including paid work experiences, training, job shadows and employment opportunities.

[Learn more and apply](#)



Help shape Washington's next strategic workforce plan

Washington's Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board seeks your input as they develop the strategic plan for workforce development services in Washington. The plan, called "Talent and Prosperity for All," provides the roadmap for improving services over the next four years.

Share your experience with the board in a short, anonymous survey.

[Take the survey](#)

Future Leaders Project: Edge Network interns share their experience

[Edge Networks](#) hosted two [Future Leaders Project](#) interns during summer 2023. Jonathan and Thomas share their experience, insights and discoveries through their internships.

"Looking back, I am grateful for all the valuable experiences I gained this summer. The opportunity to get real-world experience has also helped me understand some

fundamental marketing principles more clearly. I am now looking forward to returning to school and taking classes that will help me with my career in the future." *Jonathan Zacarias*

[Read Jonathan's story](#)

"I came to Edge knowing a little about cybersecurity, having worked on some software in that field before. But this was a whole new angle to see things from. During my time here, I leveraged my experience with some scripting languages to automate various tasks and free up the time of more senior individuals." *Thomas Everett Haynes*

[Read Thomas' story](#)

WORKFORCE SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON IN THE NEWS

The Daily News

Workforce Southwest Washington adds new board members with local ties

New board members with local ties have been added to a state nonprofit that uses federal funds to help Washingtonians find work.

[Read more](#)

Vancouver Business Journal

Share welcomes new board directors; Carlos Rodriguez-Vega of Grocery Outlet Orchards and Nolan Yaws-Gonzalez of Workforce Southwest Washington

Share welcomed two new board directors in September: Carlos Rodriguez-Vega, Independent Owner/Operator of Orchards Grocery Outlet, and Nolan Yaws-Gonzalez, Senior Project Manager at Workforce Southwest Washington.

[Read more](#)

PARTNER NEWS AND EVENTS

[Southwest Washington's regional economist Scott Bailey signs off after 33 years - The Columbian](#)

[Clark College's Ridgefield campus 'tops out,' marks construction milestone - The Columbian](#)

[Employment growth in Cowlitz County drives business, report shows - The Daily News](#)

Next Workshops | 120 NE 136th Avenue, Suite 130, Vancouver, WA 98684

Resume and Cover Letter | December 13, 2024 | 9 - 11 a.m.

Interview Readiness | December 13, 2024 | 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Exploring Education and Career Paths | December 20, 2024 | 12:30 - 2 p.m.

[Schedule of events at Next](#)

WorkSource Vancouver Hiring Event | January 17, 2024 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | 204 SE Stonemill Drive Suite 215, Vancouver, WA 98684

Washington State Opportunity Scholarship

[Career and Technical Scholarship](#) | Open January 4 - February 5

[Baccalaureate Scholarship](#) | Open January 10 - February 29

Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), a nonprofit organization, funds community prosperity by investing in services that help individuals gain skills to obtain good-paying jobs or advance in their careers and help companies recruit, train and retain workers. Our investments strengthen the region's businesses and contribute to a strong economy. Since 2003, we've invested more than \$126 million in Southwest Washington. WSW is the Local Workforce Development Board (LWDB) designated by federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) legislation to oversee the public workforce system in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. Learn more at www.workforcesw.org.

[Read our Blogs](#)

[Explore our Data](#)

[Upcoming Board Meetings](#)

Thanks for reading.

If you liked this email, share it using the buttons below.

Did someone share this with you? To sign up or view previous editions, [click here](#).



 Share

 Tweet

 Share

 Forward

Workforce Southwest Washington
805 Broadway, Suite 412 | Vancouver, WA 98660
You are receiving this because of your interest in workforce development. WSW is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay 711.