



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Julia Maglione, 360.567.3176, jmaglione@workforcesw.org

Workforce Southwest Washington CEO to Retire Applications being accepted

Vancouver, Wash. (Jan. 16, 2018) — After six years as CEO of Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), the nonprofit that oversees programs that help employers recruit workers and provide job training to adults and youth in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties, Jeanne Bennett will retire in June.

WSW will start an immediate search to replace Bennett, but will focus on current, local workforce system staff and partners.

“Jeanne has strengthened relationships with our partners, taken communications to a whole new level and assembled a great team,” said Bill Skidmore, vice-chair of WSW’s board of directors who is leading the recruitment search team. “We’re going to miss her.”

To learn how to apply for the CEO position and view the job description, go to www.workforcesw.org and click the link in the “news” section in the bottom right corner of the home page.

During Bennett’s tenure, WSW sought and received millions of dollars in competitive grant funds, enabling it to provide the Southwest Washington community with numerous workforce training programs, including YouthBuild, YouthWorks, LEAP (a partnership with the Clark County Jail), South Kelso Youth Construction Project, among others. WSW has also been instrumental in launching career fairs for high school students in Wahkiakum and Cowlitz counties, shifting workforce programs to an industry focus to ensure local companies have the skilled workers they need and job seekers are receiving training in sectors projected to have jobs and grow in the future.

“It has been a privilege to serve as CEO of WSW and to work in this community and with an amazing staff who I know will continue to make the workforce system effective for businesses, workers and youth in our region,” said Jeanne Bennett.

Before becoming WSW’s CEO in February 2012, Bennett spent five years as executive director of the Mount St. Helens Institute. She also worked at Educational Service District 112.

###

Workforce Southwest Washington (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-funded programs operated by WorkSource and community-based organizations help businesses find and hire the employees they need and provide people with the skills, education and training to find work or advance in their careers. WSW collaborates with employers, community colleges and universities, labor groups, government and economic development agencies, high schools, nonprofits and community organizations. Learn more at www.workforcesw.org.

Serving businesses, job seekers and youth in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties.