

SW Washington Workforce Development Council News

October 2008

Last chance to help support scholarships for youth

The Young Professionals of Vancouver (YPOV) is hosting its first annual ***Reach for the Stars*** scholarship fundraiser on **Saturday, November 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Downtown Vancouver Hilton**. Proceeds will go to two deserving students enrolled in the Youth Workforce Program which is funded by Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council and administered by Educational Service District 112.

In order to help YPOV reach their goal of \$10,000, they need YOUR contributions! If you or your company are interested in sponsoring a table (\$500 per table) or donating items and/or services for the silent auction, please contact [Tina](#)

Shared staff bolsters economic and workforce development in Cowlitz County



The Cowlitz Economic Development Council in conjunction with SWWDC recently hired Mary Brown to fill a shared position that works to facilitate economic and workforce development efforts in Cowlitz County. The shared position, funded by both organizations, is structured to help businesses identify workforce development

issues and to facilitate solutions and connections to the workforce system.

Mary, who has only been in her position for a few weeks, says that while her job will be a day by day learning process, it's all about building relationships that benefit employers and job seekers alike.

"My role is to help sustain and strengthen our economy by bringing new businesses into the community while maintaining relationships and camaraderie with current businesses in Cowlitz County," Mary explained. "It's also working with SWWDC to bring in a skilled workforce to fill these positions."

Mary has worked in a variety of jobs in the past from genetics work to retail. Her most recent job was as an underwriter at Health Net of Oregon.

"I took this job because it encompasses all the things that I wanted to get out of a career, including marketing experience, working with people, helping a community, and building a strong local economy," said Mary.

Lean manufacturing concepts streamline WorkSource

With an economy so dependent on manufacturing, it's

SWWDC welcomes new board members

Suzanne Cusick, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Longview Public Schools.

Mindi Linquist
Government Affairs and Marketing Manager
Port of Kalama

Upcoming Events

Healthcare Careers Hiring Event
Thursday, October 30
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

[WorkSource Vancouver](#)

Positions may include registered nurse, certified nurse assistant, childcare worker, dental assistant, medical receptionist and more!

Election Day
Tuesday, November 4

Don't forget to vote!

Cowlitz County Veterans Hiring Event

Wednesday,
November 12
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
[WorkSource Cowlitz/Wahkiakum](#)

[Vlachos](#) at (360) 241-3721 or [Jeff Bernheisel](#).

Tickets can be purchased for \$50 a seat online at <http://www.ypov.org/>. If you are unable to attend but would still like to contribute, individual donations can also be made online. Donors who give ten dollar will be recognized with a Silver Star and those who give twenty-five dollars or more will receive a Gold Star on YPOV's "Wall of Fame" at the dinner event.

Learn about careers in the construction trades

SWWDC continues to coordinate tours of training facilities for regional trade organizations and apprenticeships with a goal of ensuring services providers, educators, and counselors have accurate information about these careers. Upcoming tours include: roofers and waterproofers, electricians, painters, outside linemen, and Oregon Tradeswomen. [Click here](#) for a current list and registration information.

fitting that the SWWDC is drawing on the lean-manufacturing process of "value stream mapping" to streamline WorkSource services.

No process or function was spared as mapping teams of WorkSource staff looked for inefficiencies in everything from physical layout to paperwork. They also worked to integrate the numerous programs and funding streams that share space and customers at WorkSource. Just one result: reducing customers' average waiting time from 38 to 7 minutes.

"Whether you're making widgets or helping people get jobs, it makes sense to remove anything that doesn't add value so you can be as efficient as possible and give the best customer service," says Jordana Barclay, SWWDC program manager.

WorkSource centers in Clark and Cowlitz counties, with support from SWWDC, began the process of VSM earlier this year to create a service model that is more customer-friendly and delivers services more efficiently to more customers.

"While VSM is known primarily for its uses in manufacturing, within our world of workforce, we have been using it to analyze the delivery of workforce services, from outreach through counseling, training, and job placement. VSM has helped us analyze areas of waste and identify barriers that affect system performance," explained Barclay.

Barriers to the new service model were identified at various levels. The teams, with the support of SWWDC and the state, are now in the process of working to remove as many barriers as possible to achieve the more streamlined process and performance goals.

SWWDC selected to mentor workforce development peers in Maryland

The U.S. Department of Labor recently selected SWWDC to serve as one of fifteen mentors for its national technical assistance and leadership development project, the National Business Learning Partnership (NBLP).

The NBLP is a collaborative project that pairs local, regional, and state workforce entities that have proven track records with those that are seeking assistance on particular issues. Through its peer-to-peer learning structure, workforce practitioners learn from one another and replicate best practices across the system.

305 S. Pacific Ave., Suite A, Kelso, WA 98626

Employers include LifePort, Evergreen Frontier, Express Employment Pros, Richard Cook Trucking and more! VFW Service Officers there to help with VA related issues.

SWWDC Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 12
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
ESD 112, 2500 NE 65th Ave, Vancouver, WA.

Clark County Veterans Hiring Event

Thursday, November 13
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

[WorkSource Vancouver](#)

Industries represented include warehouse and transportation, production and manufacturing, janitorial and maintenance, corrections and security, engineering and construction and more!

YPOV Reach for the Stars Scholarship Fundraiser

Saturday, November 15
6:00 p.m.
Downtown Vancouver Hilton

Annual Report now available

SWWDC has published its 2007-2008 Annual Report. To request a copy, email info@swwdc.org or download a copy from the [SWWDC website](#).

"Mentoring gives us the opportunity to see other programs and perspectives. And, while we are there to provide support and direction, we also learn a lot. It's a two way street," said Lisa Nisenfeld, SWWDC Executive Director.

This is not the first time the SWWDC has served as a mentor. The SWWDC has helped other Workforce Investment Boards reassess services in light of a changing economy and has offered strategic planning guidance. Last year, SWWDC teamed up with its Portland counterpart, Worksystems Inc., to mentor peers in North Carolina and Colorado.

www.swwdc.org

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