

## SW Washington Workforce Development Council News

September 2008

### SWWDC says goodbye to longtime workforce development advocate



WorkSource centers serving Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum will soon

lose longtime advocate and Workforce Area Director, Beverly Kimble, who will retire at the end of the month.

Beverly has worked for the Employment Security Department in workforce development for 34 years, beginning as an employment specialist. During her tenure as Area Director, Beverly set WorkSource "system" direction and worked to implement the workforce policies in the state. This included partnering with other community organizations and sharing resources.

"I believe the best use of our organization's time and taxpayers' money is to serve customers--by leveraging all available resources to assist employers in filling

### SWWDC, CREDC, CEDC receive Governor's best practices award

*Integration of workforce and economic development deemed model of success*



Governor Gregoire; Lisa Nisenfeld, SWWDC; and Ted Sprague, Cowlitz Economic Development Council. Photograph by Molly Vaden.

SWWDC, the Columbia River Economic Development Council (CREDC) and the Cowlitz Economic Development Council (CEDC), were selected as a 2008 Economic Development and Workforce Best Practices award winner. The three agencies together were recognized at the Governor's Economic and Workforce Development Conference in September as a model of success in economic development.

SWWDC, CREDC and CEDC joined forces to match the needs of employers with the skills of the workforce. The partnership began in SW Washington with the co-location of the SWWDC and CREDC over six years ago. It further solidified last year when they, along with the CEDC, restructured and invested jointly to provide staff that is literally shared by the SWWDC and each EDC.

"We've been able to do amazing things working together, sharing staff and resources and aligning our workforce and economic development efforts," said Lisa Nisenfeld, SWWDC Executive Director. "These partnerships have allowed our communities to offer a unified voice to businesses that links and

### Propose MAPS new name and win a free iPod nano!

Mentoring Advanced Programs for Students (MAPS) is looking for a new name that is distinctive, meaningful, easy to explain, and that has no strong negative connotations. Email your proposed name along with your contact information to [Natalie Pacholl](mailto:Natalie.Pacholl@swwdc.org) or text it to 360-718-1603. Enter submissions **no later than Friday, Oct 10.**

Some names that already have been proposed are Catalyst, a chemistry term for something that causes activity between two or more persons or forces without itself being affected; Parabola NW, a mathematical term; and Affine NW, a Latin word meaning "to connect".

MAPS mission is to

openings and to support job seekers in finding employment," she said.

In her retirement, Beverly plans to become a blueberry farmer and to start a small business; just enough she says to support her habit of traveling the world. She also hopes to participate in the "Sew n Sew" quilting group at her church and to work more extensively with Boy Scouts of America.

### **Skills Center's emphasis on professionalism recognized as "Promising Practice" in character education**

The Character Education Partnership (CEP) selected the Clark County Skills Center as the nationwide winner of its Promising Practices in Students Professionalism award.

The Skills Center was selected as the winner for its strong emphasis on professionalism in all aspects of students' experiences--in the classroom, the workshop or during an apprenticeship. Specifically, it was selected for its Professionalism Curriculum that teaches behaviors that employers widely accept: communication, teamwork, problem solving, goal setting, employability, quality

leverages all community resources to meet the businesses' needs."

The power of these partnerships can be clearly seen in the support provided United Natural Foods Inc. (UNFI) in Clark County and Cameron Family Glass Packaging in Cowlitz County.

United Natural Foods Inc. (UNFI), a distributor of natural and organic foods, wanted to create a one-of-a-kind facility with an exceptional quality of work life. Specifically, local UNFI leadership wanted to tap into the vast skills and abilities of returning US military service members. The SWWDC/CREDC team connected UNFI to WorkSource, Clark County's one-stop employment center, which provided easy and supportive access to these individuals. In fact, UNFI was honored by the Commissioner of Washington's Employment Security Department for their efforts in hiring and supporting veterans.

With Cameron Family Glass, SWWDC and CEDC worked together to help bring 90 new jobs to the Port of Kalama in Cowlitz County. The shared staff between the two organizations provided a seamless coordination of services that helped Cameron Family Glass choose Cowlitz County over other locations. As a result, the company was able to utilize programs at WorkSource and Lower Columbia College to successfully recruit and train an experienced workforce that would fit into the culture they wanted to create.

### **WorkSource honors local employers**

*Over 30 Southwest Washington employers recognized for their efforts in workforce development*

In late August, the WorkSource Vancouver Business Services Unit hosted an appreciation luncheon at the Red Lion at the Quay for employers that have partnered with them in workforce development in Southwest Washington. Over 30 companies, including nLight Photonics, United Natural Foods Inc. and WaferTech, were honored for their collaborative efforts in creating and supporting a world-class labor force.

Representative Deb Wallace, 17th District, was the keynote luncheon speaker. Wallace spoke about the future workforce and the need to keep students interested in careers that use their education. At the end of the luncheon, Matt Sneed, the Business Services Manager presented appreciation awards to the employers in attendance.

expand the number of NW students who succeed in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects and to prepare them to become future leaders and innovators in the global economy.

### **Young Professionals of Vancouver to raise college scholarship funds for low-income youth in SWWDC's youth program**

The Young Professionals of Vancouver (YPOV) is hosting its first annual *Reach for the Stars* event to raise funds for two college scholarships for deserving Clark County youth in the SW WA Workforce Development Council's 2008 youth program which is administered by Educational Service District 112.

The *Reach for the Stars* dinner and silent auction will be held on **Saturday, November 15, 2008 at 6pm** at the Downtown Vancouver Hilton. Tickets are \$50 a seat and table sponsorships are \$500. The group is also soliciting items

awareness, resource management and community/citizenship.

The CEP gives annual awards for unique and specific exemplary practices that encourage the ethical, social, and academic growth of K–12 students through character education.

To learn more about the Clark County Skills Center or CEP and its national awards programs, visit <http://www.cc-sc.com/or> <http://www.character.org/>

WorkSource Vancouver helps over 1,200 employers every year find qualified candidates and assists with training options for workforce development.

for a silent auction. Visit <http://www.y pov.org/> to purchase tickets or donate items.

As young professionals and future business leaders in Clark County, YPOV is committed to continued growth and development of young people entering the SW Washington workforce.

[www.swwdc.org](http://www.swwdc.org)

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