



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

DECEMBER 2022



WSW honors board members

At its December board meeting, WSW celebrated two board members and their valuable contributions. John Vanderkin, VP Operations at On-Line Support, was honored as WSW's Board Member of the Year. Vanderkin has served on WSW's Board for nearly 12 years. In that time, he has held various leadership roles including serving as Board Chair from 2014 to 2018 and being a member of the Executive, Finance, and Business Recovery and Growth committees. Over the years his company has participated in numerous workforce system events including the Youth Employment Summit, job fairs and hiring events.

"John has worked alongside our organization for more than a decade and continues to provide continuity of leadership and mentorship to many on the Board and on WSW's team. His quick sense of humor, strong passion for workforce development, and ardent commitment to the WSW team and

organization are just a few of John's attributes that we value and appreciate at WSW.”

The Board Member of the Year is chosen by the WSW Board Chair and CEO as a stellar example of what it means to be an engaged and supportive Board Member.

Ralph Clark was also celebrated for his service during his final board meeting. Since joining WSW's Board of Directors in 2018 Clark served in many capacities, including executive committee, governance committee, rural jobs initiative, and recruiting committee for board members and the 2021 CEO search. We wish Ralph the best as we say a bittersweet farewell!

Join us in congratulating and celebrating John and Ralph!



Funding for Youth Employment & Career Services Available

Workforce Southwest Washington is seeking consortium-based proposals for the delivery of services to out-of-school youth ages 16-24 in the Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I. The Request for Proposals is looking to identify consortiums capable of offering integrated services focused on providing holistic support and training to prepare out-of-school youth for post-secondary and career success.

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. PT on **February 10, 2023**.

[Learn More](#)

2022

OPPORTUNITY YOUTH LABOR REPORT



Opportunity Youth Report Released

The [2022 Opportunity Youth Report](#), from Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) and its [Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative \(CWWC\)](#) partners, found an estimated 34,400 16-to-24-year-olds in the Portland-Southwest Washington region are not in school or working. This accounts for more than 13% of all youth in the region.

As of 2020, there were 10,147 opportunity youth in Southwest Washington. Of those, 8,220 resided in Clark County and 1,927 resided in Cowlitz, Wahkiakum and Pacific counties. The number of opportunity youth is up slightly since the [2018 Opportunity Youth Report](#), which reported 10,039 opportunity youth in Southwest Washington.

[Read more](#)



Training funds available for companies to advance their workforce

People are your organizations greatest asset and investing in their training is a powerful demonstration of how much you value them. Today's employees want

to work for an organization that will provide opportunities for them to learn, grow and advance.

WSW has grant funds to reimburse companies for training their existing employees. We are looking for companies that share our dedication to equity.

WSW prioritizes investments that advance workforce equity, ensuring the public workforce system focuses on equitable support of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian and other People of Color and historically-excluded communities, and is inclusive of companies that demonstrate commitment to providing quality jobs.

Applications are due by **March 31, 2023**.

[Learn More](#)

Future Leaders Project seeks businesses to host summer interns

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 helps cultivate diverse leaders for our growing community. FLP places students from historically underrepresented communities and first-generation college students into employer-sponsored summer internships, providing growth and professional development opportunities.

Hosting FLP interns offers your company many benefits, including:

- New ideas and fresh perspective
- Support for projects that employees might not have time to complete
- Proven, cost-effective way to recruit and evaluate potential permanent employees
- Opportunities for staff to gain supervisory skills through mentoring and managing interns
- Effective public relations ambassadors, as interns often help increase the visibility of their host organization on campus and with their peers and family members

- Opportunities to promote community involvement and demonstrate your organization's commitment to workforce development – an excellent public relations tool!

Businesses interested in hosting interns for summer 2023 should contact Project Manager, Nolan Yaws-Gonzalez at nyaws-gonzalez@workforcesw.org.



High Tech Hiring Event connects candidates to quality jobs

Nearly half of the region's advanced manufacturing workforce is 45 years or older. As workers retire, companies will need to accelerate hiring to meet demand. To help with this, Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW) and the [Southwest Washington High Tech Council \(HTC\)](#) organized a hiring event.

The High Tech Manufacturing Hiring Event took place on October 13 at the Clark College Columbia Tech Center campus with participating organizations including [Analog Devices](#), [ControlTek](#), [Columbia Machine](#), [Kyocera](#), [nLight](#), [Shin Etsu](#), [Silicon Forest Electronics](#), [Thompson Metal Fab](#), [Underwriter Laboratories](#), [Clark College](#), [Wafertech](#), [WorkSource](#) and [I.F. Robotics](#).

[Read More](#)

Manufacturing Day brings awareness,

opportunity to teachers and students

During Manufacturing month in October, WSW brought awareness to the quality careers the manufacturing industry can offer for young adults in the region.

Manufacturing Day, which brought together teachers from Kelso, Longview, Woodland and Wahkiakum, gave educators the opportunity to learn about careers in the manufacturing field and the skills students should be equipped with to successfully join the workforce.

The teachers met at the [Kelso-Longview Chamber of Commerce](#) to learn about the workforce development initiatives that WSW is doing across Southwest Washington. The group then traveled to [North Pacific Paper Company \(NORPAC\)](#), where WSW board member Corey Giles met with them for a facility tour.

[Read More](#)

Meet the Operations Team!

WSW's Operations team facilitates the day-to-day processes of the company. The Operations team oversees anything that involves all departments or is for the benefit of the whole organization, including contracting, monitoring, office management, board management, HR, staff support and more!



AMY GIMLIN
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICER

Amy Gimlin our Chief Operating Officer leads the Operations team. Amy supports WSW with internal processes and handles all matters related to HR. Amy is also the Local Equal Opportunity Officer, handling all customer and staff complaints as it relates to WIOA. Amy also supports the One Stop Operator in her daily work and the operations of WorkSource.

Before joining WSW, Amy worked with WSW's WIA Youth Provider at the time, Educational Service District 112, doing quality assurance. She worked with ESD 112 for about five years, which taught her about federal requirements and how to do quality assurance checks on program participant files.

Amy's favorite part of her job is working with staff and learning what makes them thrive. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family camping and going on cruises.

Reach Amy at agmilin@workforcesw.org or 360.567.1059.



In her position as Contracts Manager, **Linda Czech** facilitates the drafting, development and execution of contracts to subrecipients and professional services. Linda also processes incoming invoices for accounts payable and enters transactions into our accounting system.

Before joining WSW, Linda worked in the retail and food industries, homeschooled her two boys and worked at Clark College, before returning to school after 30 years. Helping her boys explore and find their careers, talking to students at Clark and pursuing her career path has given Linda a passion for helping others find their way to a job they enjoy and that will give them the means to self-esteem and economic security.

For Linda, the most fulfilling part of her job is hearing stories about the impact WSW's investments have on the community. Outside of work, Linda enjoys gardening, fishing, hiking, painting and baking.

Get in touch with Linda by email at lczech@workforcesw.org or by phone at 360.567.3186.

As Data and Compliance
Coordinator, **Tamara Toles**



TAMARA TOLES
DATA & COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR

supports and leads compliance in the areas of contract monitoring and equal opportunity, makes sure that WSW meet regulations, runs quality assurance and ensures the integrity of data in our management information systems.

Prior to joining WSW, Tamara worked as Chief Administrative Officer for a nonprofit youth organization and Program Manager/Operations Manager for a CDC cooperative agreement through a healthcare system. These roles fine-tuned her skills to focus in on the details associated with her current role.

Tamara finds contributing to ensure integrity for continued funding to support quality programs to be the most impactful part of her job at WSW. Outside of work, Tamara enjoys reading, arts, playing games with her son and looking for volunteer opportunities.

Get in touch with Tamara by email at ttoles@workforcesw.org or by phone at 360.567.1075.



TRACI WILLIAMS
EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR &
OFFICE MANAGER

As the Office Manager/Executive Administrator, **Traci Williams** acts as the Board Liaison, provides full office support and helps manage the CEO.

Before joining WSW, Traci worked as a Barista for 10 years. She also worked as an administrator for BP/Olympic Pipelines for five years which helped her understand how to work in a fast-paced global office setting.

These positions emboldened Traci to have confidence in the tasks she performs, be able to communicate effectively with partners, board members, teammates and the public.

Traci finds it fulfilling to help alleviate stress from coworkers with professional support. Outside of work, Traci enjoys hiking, hunting, snowshoeing, kayaking and trips to the beach.

Get in touch with Traci by email at twilliams@workforcesw.org or by phone at 360.567.1070.



EOCF

connect | empower | transform

Partnership with Educational Opportunities for Children and Families invests in families, future workforce

WSW will be partnering with [Educational Opportunities for Children and Families](#) and [Clark College](#) to train more Early Childhood Educators, sourcing the workforce from the EOCF families receiving services.

[Read More](#)

Kari Kollander participates in national fellowship program

Workforce Southwest Washington's Research and Data Analyst, [Kari Kollander](#), as well as members from [Columbia Willamette Workforce Collaborative \(CWWC\)](#), were

chosen to participate in a year-long [Results 4 America Workforce Fellowship](#). Kollander and her colleagues are taking part in the advancing job quality track of the fellowship, focusing on use of data and evidence to measure the impact of the CWWC's quality jobs initiative.



[Read More](#)

WorkSource launches new hours, service delivery

From November 28, 2022 through February 28, 2023 [WorkSource](#) will provide virtual services only on Mondays and Fridays. In-person services will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

On Mondays and Fridays, job seekers will have access to training and support services virtually and will be able to connect with the WorkSource team via email, phone and virtual meetings. Only the resource room will be unavailable.

WorkSource Operating Hours

November 28 through February 28

Sunday: Closed
Monday: 8am-5pm (virtual services only)
Tuesday: 8am-5pm
Wednesday: 8am-5pm
Thursday: 8am-5pm
Friday: 8am-5pm (virtual services only)
Saturday: Closed



WorkSource
A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network

WorkSource is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay Service: 711.

To schedule virtual services, you can call or reach out directly to WorkSource on the [contact page](#).

For the Vancouver office, call: (360) 735-5010.

To reach the Kelso office, call: (360) 577-2250.

[Learn More](#)

PAX Learning Center helps students find pathways to success at Next



PAUL VASQUEZ
PAX Learning Co-Executive Director

The [PAX Learning Center](#) located at [Next](#) hosts General Education Development (GED) courses to prepare young adults in Southwest Washington to launch their career through educational growth. Paul Vasquez, the Co-Executive Director of PAX Learning Center, is passionate about helping youth and young adults reach their full potential through learning.

[Learn More](#)

New workforce grant to aid SW WA communities negatively impacted by COVID-19

WSW has secured more than \$1.1 million through a Quality Jobs, Equity, Strategy, and Training (QUEST) Disaster Recovery WIOA National Dislocated Worker Grant. The grant will provide services to people whose employment has been negatively impacted by COVID-19, with a focus on BIPOC communities, rural communities, people with disabilities, underserved communities, and other disproportionately impacted communities. WorkSource will provide career, training and supportive services, with a focus on placing participants into unsubsidized, high-quality employment.

The business team will engage with local and regional companies to help find the workers they seek and implement and strengthen local and regional sector partnerships to move participants into high-quality jobs.

Share your business' Diversity, Equity and Inclusion progress to help Southwest Washington thrive

[The Greater Vancouver Chamber](#) recognizes the positive relationship between diversity and a thriving economy and has released a survey to find out how organizations across the region are shaping the workforce culture. The goal is to identify where there is progress and where more work and resources are needed. The survey will be open until Friday, December 30.

Please take a few minutes to share your company's efforts with Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion!

[Take the survey](#)

Provide your insights to help ensure high school students are prepared to join the Washington workforce!

The [Association of Washington Business \(AWB\) Institute](#) and [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) (OSPI) are partnering to help ensure high school students are prepared to join the workforce—and they need your help! Please take a few minutes to answer a survey about the non-degree credentials that are helpful or required in your workplace. Survey results will guide program development, evaluation for equity and improved outcomes for students.

[Take the survey](#)

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 \$120 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.

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Workforce Southwest Washington

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