



Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Best Practice Awards Reception Showcases Job Creation

Governor's award highlights intersection between education and economic development

OLYMPIA --- Four initiatives that demonstrate the connection between education and economic development will be recognized at a reception and awards ceremony, **Thursday, March 24, 3 -4 p.m.** in the Legislative building's State Reception Room. *Note: This event was originally scheduled for February, but last month's severe winter weather prompted the new March date.*

The 2010 Governor's Best Practices Awards for Workforce and Economic Development will be awarded to two programs that help Washington and its workers take full advantage of emerging environmental fields. Two other programs will be recognized for providing work experience to young adults and fostering entrepreneurship.

Walla Walla Community College Water & Environmental Center - Best Practice Award

Research and development in water resource management and conservation, in conjunction with education that trains researchers and technicians, is generating environmental solutions and jobs.
www.wtb.wa.gov/Documents/WallaWallaCommunityCollegev2.pdf

King County Jobs Initiative - Best Practice Award

Since 1998, this county-operated workforce development program has placed over 1,200 low-income, disadvantaged residents of South King County into full-time employment, mostly in environmental clean up related jobs. www.wtb.wa.gov/Documents/KCJlv2.pdf

SODO (Seeking Opportunities, Developing Occupations) - "Program to Watch" Award

This King County program prepares disadvantaged youth ages 18-24 for work and places them in internships with 30 area manufacturing companies. <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Documents/SODOv2.pdf>

Highline Community College's StartZone - "Program to Watch" Award

South King County residents from disadvantaged backgrounds start and grow businesses through no-cost training, technical assistance and other business supports.
<http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Documents/StartZonev2.pdf>

These awards are organized by the state Department of Commerce and the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. More at:
<http://www.wtb.wa.gov/GovernorsBestPracticesAwards2010.asp>.

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