

ALLIED HEALTH CLINICAL PLACEMENT PROJECT

Employer Engagement

South Central
Workforce Development
Council



The South Central WDC partnered with Yakima Valley Community College to optimize clinical learning opportunities for health career students.

In response to the chronic shortage of healthcare workers, the severity of the recession and an increase in unemployment, community colleges have been asked to enroll more students into their health careers programs. Accommodating an increased number of students has been seriously compromised because of a serious shortage of clinical externships annually. Although 75 clinical site agreements were in place with local hospitals, clinics and labs in Grant, Benton, Chelan, Yakima, Klickitat and Kittitas Counties, less than half were accepting students. With the support of healthcare industry partners, the South Central WDC partnered with Yakima Valley Community College to develop the Clinical Placement Project to optimize clinical learning opportunities in five occupations: Pharmacy Technician, Medical Assisting, Medical Billing and Coding, Surgical Technologist and Phlebotomy.

Local industry's expectations for the Clinical Placement Project were:

- Serve all schools in the area
- Work with all hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities and others
- Maximize existing placement slots and create additional slots for allied health programs
- Measureable outcomes
- Single point of contact
- Benefits to education and industry through reduced faculty and agency staff hours arranging clinical placements

A Clinical Placement Coordinator was funded by an investment of \$74,349 from the WDC and in-kind contributions from YVCC.

OUTCOMES

- An additional 41 sites for a total of 126 Affiliation Agreements
- Increased program capacity:
 - Medical Assisting 57%
 - Billing & Coding 128%
 - Pharmacy Tech 20%
 - Phlebotomy 10%
- More students are employed and/or continuing their education:
 - Surgical Tech 100%
 - Billing & Coding 70%
 - Medical Assisting 100%
 - Pharmacy Tech 78%
 - Phlebotomy 100%

<http://www.workforcecouncil.org>

A local Health Skills Panel (consortium) representing industry, education, and Workforce Development has been working over several years to address a health sector skills and personnel shortage through local “grow your own” workforce initiatives and investments.

