



Workforce Training and
Education Coordinating Board

Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

August 1, 2012

Contact: Tim Sweeney, (360) 709-4606
tsweeney@wtb.wa.gov

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SURVEY SEEKS THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE ON WASHINGTON'S WORKFORCE

Employers asked to provide insight on hiring challenges, skill shortages in a confidential survey

OLYMPIA –The Washington Chamber of Commerce Executives and the Association of Washington Business have both endorsed a comprehensive survey designed to learn more about the workforce struggles and successes of Washington's employers.

"We are pleased to once again be partnering with the Workforce Board and the AWB Institute," said Bob Green, president of the Washington Chamber of Commerce Executives. "The few minutes that employers spend with this survey will support our efforts to create a strong economy for Washington workers and businesses."

The Association of Washington Business has a voting representative on the Workforce Board and has been a sponsor of the survey in previous years as well.

"A skilled workforce is essential if our state is to remain competitive and attract and retain jobs," said AWB President Don Brunell. "We hope employers will take a moment to participate in this survey. It will be extremely helpful in terms of aligning the needs of today's workforce with the training students receive in our colleges. Too many jobs are going unfilled right now," he said. "We must do more to help prepare the next generation of workers to meet the needs of today's employers."

The survey is planned to reach over 4,000 Washington businesses to ask about their experience and needs in hiring workers, and their practices in trying to achieve an adequately skilled workforce. In addition, employers who have recently hired newly trained workers will be asked about their satisfaction with the skills of recently hired employees.

The surveys are conducted every other year and will be analyzed by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board), the state agency responsible for planning, monitoring and improving the state's worker training system.

--MORE--

By asking businesses about their hiring and training experiences, the survey serves as a barometer on how Washington is doing in ensuring its economy has the skilled workers it needs to succeed. Survey responses are kept confidential so business owners can be completely candid about their hiring experiences and the performance of their workforce. If you are one of the 4,000 businesses who receive the survey, please invest the 15 minutes necessary to fill out and return the confidential survey.

The greater the response rate, the better the accuracy. The sampling procedure is designed to collect 3,000 Needs and Practices responses from a wide range of employers well distributed across the state's regions and mix of industries, including employers of all sizes, from two-person firms to very large companies.

Survey results will be published later this year. To view the 2010 Employer Survey results, see: <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/EmployerSurvey.asp>

###

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board is a partnership of labor, business and government, dedicated to helping Washington residents obtain and succeed in family-wage jobs, while meeting employers' needs for skilled workers.