



**Workforce Training and
Education Coordinating Board**

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Why Take Your Child to Work Day is important

Olympia, Wash.—When parents bring their children to work on Thursday, April 24, they may not realize just how different their children’s work environment will be from when they started their own work careers. For one thing, there will be fewer workers available.

In 1990, almost 70 percent of those 16 years old and older participated in the labor force. By 2030, that rate is projected to dip to 63 percent, because of a mix of factors, including a declining birth rate and retired people living longer.

Washington’s workforce will be more diverse as well. By 2030, the percent of minority workers will be more than double what it was in 1990 (moving from 8.5 percent to 19.5 percent). The fastest growing minority group, Hispanics, will triple their representation during the coming years (moving from 3.8 percent of the workforce in 1990 to 13.5 percent in 2030).

“Parents shouldn’t be afraid that their work is too complicated or not interesting enough to share with their sons and daughters,” said Eleni Papadakis, executive director of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. “Giving children an up-close look at what you do, helps them understand the importance of work, the career possibilities that are open to them and the education and training needed to land the job of their dreams.”

Your child will likely have questions. You can help them focus on important issues. For example, your child might benefit from hearing answers to these questions:

- Does your organization value teamwork? What are some examples?
- What is the biggest technology challenge in your workplace?
- What kind of problems do you have to solve to do your work?

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The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board is a partnership of labor, business and government, dedicated to helping Washington state residents obtain and succeed in family-wage jobs, while meeting employers' needs for skilled workers. As a state agency, the Workforce Board oversees a workforce development system that includes 18 education and training programs receiving almost \$1 billion annually in state and federal funds.

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