



Workforce Training and
Education Coordinating Board

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor's award recognizes six innovations in workforce development

OLYMPIA, Wash. -- Highlighting the value of collaboration, the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board designated six partnerships as winners of the 2007 Governor's Award for Best Practices in Workforce Development.

David Harrison, chairman of the Workforce Board, announced the awards at the Workforce and Economic Development 2007 Leadership Conference held in Tacoma last month. The winners were selected for innovation in problem solving, collaboration with other partners and for their results in improving the lives and businesses of participants. The winners and contacts are listed below.

Automotive Training and Career Opportunities at Shoreline Community College

In a partnership with the Puget Sound Automobile Dealers Association, Shoreline Community College combined entry-level technical training with English language and basic skills programs to open automotive service careers to non-traditional populations, including immigrants, out-of-school and at-risk youth, dislocated workers, "first generation" students, veterans and disadvantaged adults. Contact: Lee Lambert, Shoreline Community College president, (206) 546-4551.

Brownfields Job Training at Clover Park Technical College

This partnership between the City of Tacoma, Clover Park Technical College, the Metropolitan Development Council and the Tacoma-Pierce County Employment and Training Consortium provides short-term training in basic environmental science and hazardous waste handling. Low-income students recruited from Pierce County neighborhoods with contaminated sites as identified by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department are trained to safely address the handling and removal of hazardous substances from soil and water. Andrea Olson, Clover Park Technical College vice-president for economic development, (253) 589-5510.

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The Center of Excellence for Energy Technology at Centralia College

With a focus on the development and expansion of education and training programs for the energy industry at Centralia and other colleges in Washington, the center has brought together IBEW Local Union 77 with regional power employers such Tacoma Power, Puget Sound Energy, and Bonneville Power Administration to identify skill standards for jobs in electric power generation. Contact: Barbara Hins-Turner, (360) 736-9391.

Dropout prevention intervention at Sedro Woolley School District

The Northwest Workforce Development Council and the Sedro Woolley School District combined resources and expertise to provide dropout prevention intervention services for at-risk youth who had failed one or more of their seventh grade WASL tests. Services, which include parental contacts, individual academic and social counseling, and supplemental academic instruction, have increased the school retention rate, the WASL pass rate and the projected on time graduated rate of 242 current high school juniors. Contact: Gay Dubigk, Northwest Workforce Development Council executive director, (360) 676 3206.

Construction trades day at Spokane Public Schools

This annual “Pizza, Pop and Power Tools” event is designed to showcase the careers of the construction trades to female middle school students. The event has grown from its launch in 2005 with 27 students spending a day at the Apprenticeship Training Center to over 400 students with participation from 12 different apprenticeships over \$24,000 in cash and in-kind contributions. Contact: Lisa White, (509) 354-7335.

Focus on employing persons with disabilities at Clark County

A collaborative of state, community and private organizations resulted in a 445 percent increase in the number of job orders generated by the Vancouver WorkSource and filled by persons of disability over a two-year period. The program focuses on customer needs and coordinates the efforts among the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council, Washington Employment Security Department, Columbia River Mental Health, the Department of Social and Health Services’ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and other community organizations. Lynnae Rutledge, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation director, (360) 725-3610.

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