

# EXPERIENCE WORK PROJECT

## EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

### Northwest Workforce Council



*The Experience Work Project (EWP) is an effective bridge between the business community and local schools and colleges. An easy-to-use web-based platform facilitates a continuum of career exploration, skills development, work-based learning and mentorship between business and education.*

The Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the Northwest Workforce Council (NWC), created the Experience Work Project (EWP) which matches students in high school and community and technical college vocational training with businesses offering work-based opportunities for career exploration, job shadow or internships. It also creates mentorship relationships with young adults moving into the workforce.

By gaining exposure to the authentic requirements of work, young adults in secondary and postsecondary vocational training can make informed choices on course selection, preparation, and training options. Students benefit by being better prepared to link education and training with career opportunities. Businesses benefit from a more robust relationship with the workforce development and K-12 system.

As a result of effective and coordinated outreach by NWC and Chamber staff, total employer participation increased 203 percent in the second year. A mentor's manual based on best practices from NWC Internship programs was developed for the program. Employer guidelines are available on the Experience Work Project website.

Students and employers valued the support the students received to enter the workforce and make contact with employers. Students ranked their experience as either good or excellent. Employers indicated students benefitted from the job shadow experience. Four students were hired directly as a result of their internship.

## STUDENT PARTICIPATION (July 2010 through June 2011)

<b>Total Student Participation</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Students placed in job shadow</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Student placed in internship</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Registered for future internship</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Graduated Skagit Valley College</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Continuing Ed Students 2012</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Actual/projected employment</b>	<b>16</b>

<http://www.experienceworkproject.org>

