



Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2015

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NEW REPORT: WORKFORCE PROGRAMS LEAD TO JOBS FOR MANY

Report details employment rates, earnings, return on investment for participants & taxpayers

OLYMPIA—The Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board recently released Workforce Training Results 2015, an annual report that evaluates the state’s largest workforce programs and offers insight on how many participants got jobs, what they earned and the industries where they went to work. The report reflected mostly good news for people receiving education and employment training. The majority of these programs show rising employment rates, satisfied participants, and growing wages among people participating in workforce programs in Washington.

The Workforce Board publishes Workforce Training Results annually, measuring the performance of 12 of the state’s largest workforce programs. These programs account for about 95 percent of the federal and state dollars spent on Washington’s workforce training system – nearly \$780 million per year. Participants range from high school career and technical education students, to workers with disabilities, to those who are training for a new job or are struggling to find their first one.

In the most recent reporting period, for example, nearly 150,000 workforce program participants enrolled in career-focused education at one of Washington’s 34 community and technical colleges. Employment rates among these students rose from 61 percent in 2010 to 66 percent in 2014. Annual earnings rose during that same period from \$26,580 to \$27,220. Although this is a modest increase, it’s worth noting that the wage figure includes both full and part-time employment and that many participants are in entry-level positions following their training.

“We see continued progress among Washington residents who gain additional education and training, with rising wages and better employment outcomes,” said Workforce Board Executive Director Eleni Papadakis. “There are areas for improvement, but it’s clear that many of these workforce programs are making a real difference in people’s lives, while at the same time providing Washington employers with a skilled workforce.”

Get the executive summary about the overall performance of the state’s 12 largest workforce programs and more program details at <http://wtb.wa.gov/WorkforceTrainingResults.asp>.

The Workforce Board is a state agency that monitors and evaluates the state’s key workforce programs and also provides leadership on policies that help all Washington residents get the education and training they need to obtain living-wage jobs.

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