



Workforce Board

Electronic Newsletter

From the desk of Ellen O'Brien Saunders, Executive Director

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Online Registration Now Available for *Workforce Strategies 2005*

Online registration for this year's annual workforce development leadership conference *Workforce Strategies 2005: Partnering for Strong Communities* is now available at www.showworksinc.com/WFReg_form_05.html. The fee is \$200 if booked before October 7 and \$225 thereafter.

In addition to an all-star lineup of speakers and panel moderators, this year's conference will have two pre-conference events you won't want to miss. For those interested in workforce development and its interaction with economic development, Candace Moody, National Association of Workforce Boards, will moderate *Building Partnerships: Workforce and Economic Development*. Designed for Workforce Development Councils and Economic Development Board members and staff, as well as other key stakeholders, the four-hour workshop will focus on understanding the two systems and what funding sources are available to both. It will also cover the definition of economic development, its definition of success, and aligning planning between the two systems.

For those who are more interested in the connection between K12 and success in the world of work, Dr. Susan Quattrociochi will be discussing *The Shocking Truth About Education and Work: Living, Learning, and Earning in America* from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Topics in this four-part workshop include:

- Who We Are: The Demographics of Living and Working in America
- Where We Work: Dreams and Realities
- How We Earn: What Do Skills Have to Do With It?
- What Shall We Tell Students?

Both pre-conference workshops can be booked online at the same time as conference registration. The economic development workshop costs \$75 and includes lunch; the Dr. Quattrocchi workshop is \$50 and includes a CD and booklet.

Workforce Strategies 2005: Partnering for Strong Communities is the state's premier event for workforce development leaders, and annually draws more than 500 attendees from business, government, labor, education, community and technical colleges and private career schools, workforce programs, and legislators. It is hosted by the Workforce Board, with additional sponsorship from Clark College. Conference Patrons include the Employment Security Department, Department of Social and Health Services – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, with Contributions from the Association of Washington Business, Bellevue Community College, Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, Olympic College, and Shoreline Community College; and Donations from the Department of Services for the Blind and Grays Harbor College

For more details about the conference, contact Patricia Spencer at 360.586.8778, pspencer@wtb.wa.gov. For registration questions, please contact Kathy Doerr at 509.838.8755.

Governor Appoints Committee for WorkFirst Reexamination

Governor Christine Gregoire has appointed a committee to reexamine the WorkFirst program in Washington State. The WorkFirst program faces anticipated deficits of \$40 million over each of the next two years, and the Governor is interested in determining what policies and strategies would make it more effective – and more cost efficient. Chair of the WorkFirst Reexamination Work Group is the Workforce Board's Chairman David Harrison. The Group, according to Harrison, has "an aggressive agenda," with just over two months to put a set of recommendations before Governor Gregoire to increase the program's efficiency and outcomes.

For more details about the Group, contact Bryan Wilson at 360.753.0891, bwilson@wtb.wa.gov.

Where Are You Going? Available in Mid-August

The 2005 edition of *Where Are You Going, A Guide to Careers and Education in Washington State* is bigger and better than ever! Available in mid-August, the 168-page booklet is easier to read and tabulated to provide quicker access to information. There is an emphasis on Career Clusters, not only is each career cluster listed, but it also includes the various occupations which fall within each, and what classes students should take in order to pursue this occupation. And, as before, there is the latest information on more than 480 occupations, what they pay, and the training programs available plus details on where to go for financial aid, where to look for a job, how to write a resumé, and where

to get educational assistance. Customers for this publication include students and their parents, WorkSource counselors, school counselors, student services staff, company training and community and technical college offices, etc.

Free copies of *Where Are You Going?* can be ordered directly from the state Department of Printing by going to their online store, or by calling Diane Donahoo at 360.753.0892, ddonahoo@wtb.wa.gov. A downloadable pdf format will be available shortly on our website www.wtb.wa.gov.

Briefly:

Data Available on State of the Country's Workforce Development System

The latest data (March 31, 2005) on the state of the country's workforce development system is now available from the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). According to the report, ETA programs served almost 16 million people. Of this 7.8 million were served by ES; 6.4 million by Unemployment Insurance; and almost 1.7 million by other programs such as Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth/Dislocated Worker/Adult, Native American, Apprenticeship, H-1B Skills Training Program, Job Corps, etc. The WIA Dislocated Worker Program helped ensure that Dislocated Workers earned 92 percent of their old salary, and 91 percent of TAA exiters were still employed six months after exit. The WIA Younger Youth diploma attainment rate of 65 percent represents a 10 percent increase from a year ago, and after leaving Job Corps, 91 percent of the youth found employment. For a copy of the report, go to: www.doleta.gov/performance/results/Reports.cfm?#etaqr.

Forty-seven States Agree on Common Definition of High School Graduation Rate

For what is thought to be the first time in the nation's history, virtually every state in the union has agreed on a common definition for their high school graduation rate. According to the National Governors' Association (NGA), 47 governors and 12 national organizations have signed onto its *Graduation Counts: A Compact on State High School Graduation Data* that outlines five task force recommendations states should use to develop a high-quality, comparable high school graduation measure. It also includes complementary indicators of student progress and outcomes, and data systems capable of collecting, analyzing, and reporting the data. For more information about NGA's Annual Conference, go to the website at: www.nga.org.

How to Engage Employers to Benefit Low-Income Workers

If you have ever tried to engage employers to hire low-income workers, you will want to read *Engaging Employers to Benefit Low-Income Job Seekers*, now available at www.jff.org/jff/kc/library/0258. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the report asks what kind of employers are likely to be open to doing business with workforce intermediaries that seek to connect low-wage workers with employers. It also looks at ways to which employers will support to low-income workers—such as modifying human resource policies—and factors that promote employer practices and policies favorable to the hiring, retention, and advancement of low-wage earners.

New Center of Excellence Director at Centralia College

Centralia College's Center of Excellence for Energy Technology has a new executive director. She is Barbara Hins-Turner who formerly was in charge of Portland General Electric's Corporate University. She took up her new position on July 1.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences

August 14-17: Less than 10 days to this year's *Washington Association for Career and Technical Education's* annual summer conference in Yakima. Keynote speakers are Dr. Terry Bergeson, Superintendent of Public Instruction; Gene Bottoms, Senior Vice President of the Southern Regional Education Board's "High Schools That Work" Initiative, which is the largest effort in America to improve high schools for career-bound students; and Randy Dorn, Executive Director of the Public School Employees of Washington. On-site registration is still available.

August 21-24: For those interested in economic development, in Native American affairs, or its education, the Tribal Economic Development Summit is the place to be this summer. Entitled "Washington Tribes in Action," the Summit will take place at the Quinault Beach Resort in Ocean Shores. For more details, contact Natalie Charley at 360.289.3974, n.charley@coastaccess.com.

October 24-26: The *Workforce Board's* annual Workforce Strategies conference takes place at the WestCoast Ridpath Hotel in Spokane. Don't miss the pre-conference events scheduled.

November 2-5: A 'must attend' for workforce development professionals, public officials, employers, labor leaders, and policymakers is the *National Network of Sector Partners'* national conference taking place at the Drake Hotel in Chicago. For more information, contact Kaitlin McNally-Murphy at 510.251.2600, ext. 130, kaitlin@nedlc.org.

November 14-15: Circle those dates for the 2005 *It's My Life* conference taking place in Baltimore, MD. The conference is targeted at those who guide transition services for young people who 'age out' of foster care and other substitute services. Online registration opened in early July and is restricted to the first 600 registrants. More details are available from Tina Janek at 512.327.9507, tina@tinajane.com

November 16-19: Mark those dates for the *Washington State School Directors'* annual conference at the Westin Hotel in Seattle. The conference will have a new format this year and include a number of breakout sessions with topics ranging from small schools to nutrition and diversity. To register online, go to wssda.org/wssda/WebForms/En-Us/AnnualConference/RegandHotelIntro.asp.

Funding Resources

The Economic Development Administration within the Department of Commerce is seeking proposals from economic development councils, tribes, states, cities, or consortia of local government and education which addresses competitiveness and innovation in rural regions. Funding is between \$250-500,000. General criteria, with an emphasis on

“an increased number of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs, entrepreneurship, support of existing industry clusters, and development of new clusters” is available at www.eda.gov. Closing date is **August 18**.

The Starbucks Foundation, through its Giving Voice program, offers funding for Youth Literacy Programs. The deadline for Letters of Inquiry is **September 1**. Starbucks will fund programs for youth, ages 6-18, that integrate literacy with personal and civic action in the communities where they live. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000. The funding is open only to registered, nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organizations in the United States. More details available at www.starbucks.com/aboutus/foundation.asp.

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy has announced its 2006 national grant competition that closes on **September 9**. In order to be considered for a grant of up to \$65,000, an organization must: have current nonprofit or public status; have been in existence for two or more years as of the date of the application; and must have maintained fiscal accountability. The organization must operate an instructional literacy program that has been in existence for at least two years and includes one or more of the following components: literacy for adults; parent education; pre-literacy or literacy instruction for children pre-K to grade 3; and intergenerational literacy activities. Application guidelines and form are available at www.barbarabushfoundation.com/.