



Workforce Board

Electronic Newsletter

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

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Best Practice Winners Announced at Workforce Strategies 2005 Conference

Governor Christine Gregoire announced six winners for Best Practice in Workforce Development awards at this year's *Workforce Strategies 2005* leadership conference in Spokane. The Workforce Board had received 22 nominations from its Board members and Workforce Development Councils. A review committee of Board members and agency partners reviewed the nominations and selected this year's recipients.

Governor Christine Gregoire presented awards to:

Literacy Works, a Seattle-based consortium that designed and implemented a customized program for limited-English workers in small and medium-sized companies. Since 2002, more than 31 companies and 400 workers have participated.

Olympic Academic Intervention Project, an Olympic Workforce Development Council and local school districts project in which trained specialists build relationships with "at-risk" youth and assist them in reconnecting with school.

Youth Career Academies, a Vancouver-area program which significantly improved the work experience opportunities for low-income youth and their employers.

EAGER Program, a Snohomish project in which partner agencies were able to substitute the TANF 30-hour per week job requirement with a 30-hour per week intensive GED preparation program.

Welding Rodeo/Boot Camp, a multi-tiered approach at Bellingham Technical College to recruit more students into welding. The Welding Bootcamp improves welding teachers' skills, and the Welding Rodeo includes a welding contest that attracts more than 1500 youth, college students, and professional welders from all over the state.

Rural Nursing, a partnership developed by the Northeast Health Occupations Skill Panel, which developed a program to provide nurse training close to home, reasoning that "home-grown nurses" would result in an expanded and more stable labor pool.

More information about each winner, as well as a video produced by students from the Art Institute of Seattle, is available at www.wtb.wa.gov.

Increased Accountability for Private Career Schools Proposed

The Workforce Board is exploring the possibility of introducing legislation for the 2006 legislative session that would increase its oversight responsibilities, expand private vocational schools' accountability, and provide additional student protections. Such measures would help prevent abrupt closures, and provide students with more warning of possible closures and protection in case of closure.

Proposed amendments to current state law would:

1. Define how a private vocational school demonstrates that it is fiscally viable and able to fulfill its commitments to students.
Current state statute requires schools to demonstrate fiscal responsibility to be eligible for licensure, but does not define how a school will demonstrate such a requirement.
2. Require that a private vocational school program meets minimum performance standards related to student outcomes in order to continue operating a program.
Current state statute sets out minimum requirements for licensure but does not include minimum performance standards related to student outcomes.
3. Require that a private vocational school demonstrate that the qualifications of administrators, instructional personnel, and counselors are adequate to insure that students receive educational services consistent with stated program objectives.
Current state administrative code defines how a private vocational school demonstrates that qualifications of administrators, instructional personnel and counselors are adequate to insure students receive educational services that are consistent with stated program objectives. This provision would include these requirements in statute, and would add some requirements.
4. Create an early warning and intervention system for schools that are identified as "at risk" due to lack of fiscal viability and/or substantial, and frequent student complaints.
Current state law does not provide for an early warning and intervention system for "at risk" schools.

5. Provide the agency a process to place schools that are identified as “at risk” on probation, to be followed by suspension or revocation of license if the school does not improve.

Current state law does not outline a process for probation, suspension or revocation of licenses.

6. Provide transition services for students who are affected by closures. These services include providing information on transfer options, financial aid, and job search and placement.

While current law provides for payments from the tuition recovery trust fund, it does not provide for transition services for students.

For more details about the proposed legislation, contact Bryan Wilson at 360.753.0891, bwilson@wtb.wa.gov or Peggy Rudolph at 360.586.8682, prudolph@wtb.wa.gov.

Skamania Set to Switch

Following a public hearing on October 3 and a special Board meeting on October 13, the Workforce Board has recommended to Governor Christine Gregoire that Skamania County move from the SW Washington Workforce Development Area to that of the Tri-Counties. The Governor is expected make her decision in early November.

The transfer follows a request from Skamania County Commissioners in mid June citing service delivery, commuting distance, funding, and economic concerns as their reasons for wanting to move from the Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, and Clark Counties region to one embracing Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima Counties.

If approved by the Governor, the move will take effect July 1, 2006.

It's WAVE Time

High schools and community colleges soon should start receiving information about the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) scholarship program. Mailings will take place in early December with online applications available shortly thereafter.

Now in its 23rd year, the WAVE program honors the outstanding achievements of up to three students from each legislative district in vocational-technical education. Recipients receive a grant, based on availability of funds, that provides six quarters or four semesters of tuition and services/activities fees at community and technical colleges, regional research universities, accredited independent colleges, or licensed private vocational schools based in Washington State.

Applications must be submitted to the school's vocational administrator or WAVE coordinator by February 15, 2006 and to the Workforce Board no later than March 1. Notifications will be mailed to recipients on April 14.

For more information, contact Lee Williams at 360.586.3321, lwilliams@wtb.wa.gov or Diane Donahoo at 360.753.0892, ddonahoo@wtb.wa.gov.

Briefly

Two Community Colleges Receive Job Training Initiative Grants

Congratulations to Columbia Basin and Seattle Central Community Colleges who received more than \$4 million under the President's Community-Based Job Training Initiative. Columbia Basin will receive just under \$2 million to develop a healthcare Radiologic Sciences Training Program, featuring online curriculum, certifications and training equipment, in which 124 participants will be trained. Seattle Central's award of \$2.78 million will build capacity within the community college and workforce development systems to better meet the training needs of the local healthcare industry in nursing, dental hygiene, and health care support services. The project expects to train over 500 participants.

A Cool \$1 Million for Homeland Security Institute

The Homeland Security Institute, a unit in the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, has received a \$1 million grant from the Department of Homeland Security to provide the more than 26 million passengers on state ferries with information on how to protect the nation from terrorists. The program, expected to begin in February 2006, will include emergency-preparedness information in a variety of formats, from training videos on flat-screen TVs to pamphlets issued with monthly passes and security classes during ferry crossings. The grant, supported by U.S. Senator Patty Murray, was one of 15 proposals selected from 267 applications.

Job Corps/YouthBuild Opportunities for Hurricane Victims

WorkSource One-Stops take note! Job Corps has over 4,000 residential student slots immediately available for hurricane victims. The program provides support and assistance to graduates for 12 months after successful completion of their program including assistance in finding a job, housing, or transportation. Students may also reside at Job Corps for up to two years while completing their studies. More details about the program and the benefits offered are available at jobcorps.doleta.gov.

In addition, YouthBuild, a training program that combines academic instruction with construction skill development and builds affordable housing in communities across the country, has 200 evacuee spots in their programs. Contact Seattle YouthSource YouthBuilders in Renton at 206.296.5220, or email Melinda Giovengo at melinda.giovengo@metroke.gov.

PortJobs Opens Airport University

PortJobs and South Seattle Community College have gone one step further in creating career ladders within SeaTac airport. With the aid of a two-year \$210,000 grant funded by the Lumina Foundation for Education, they set up Airport University. The new program is designed to help airport workers climb their company's career ladder by connecting them to college-level education opportunities through on-site, short-term training with accompanying certificates or diplomas. Classes will be offered at or near the airport and be flexible to meet workers' schedules.

Job Opportunities:

WorkSource Area Directors

The state's Employment Security Department is looking for WorkSource Area Directors in Spokane, the Tri-Cities, and the Olympic (Bremerton, Port Angeles, etc.) areas. A BA/BS degree, or advanced graduate education is highly desirable, and applicants should have strong ties to the local community, have experience in various aspects of economic

development and workforce development activities, and a working knowledge of WorkSource. For more details about management skills and leadership qualifications needed, go to www.dop.wa.gov/JobSeekers/ESS/. Salary for these positions range from \$70-90,000 depending upon experience and location.

Economic and Workforce Development Specialist

The Workforce Board is seeking an *Economic and Workforce Development Specialist* to recommend and implement workforce development policies and strategies. The job promotes business and labor involvement with education, manages initiatives aimed at closing the “Skill Gap” (such as industry skill panels and the Work Readiness Credential), and advocates for training and education needed for success in the 75 -80 percent of jobs that do not require a bachelor’s degree. The most desirable candidate will be an exceptional communicator with significant experience in a broad range of topics such as skill standards, career ladders, career and industry clusters, curriculum development, strategic partnership-building, project management, and grants management. More details available shortly at www.wtb.wa.gov.

Regional Directors – Kansas

Kansas 1st is a Workforce Solutions system committed to providing skilled employees for employers and jobs for Kansans. The state is seeking two Kansas 1st Regional Directors to help it change the way job seekers and employers find each other. The successful applicants will partner with regional businesses identifying short-term and strategic workforce training and development needs in order to provide qualified workers. They will also provide demand-driven support as a resource broker and workforce solutions expert to existing and potential businesses, and lead Kansas Workforce Centers in providing exceptional customer services to businesses and job seekers. Salary: \$65,000 plus full benefits. For more information, contact David Cleveland at 785.296.3339, dcleveland@kansascommerce.com.

Webcasts/Conference Calls

The National Dissemination Center has scheduled a number of webcasts this autumn for those interested in workforce development. In addition to those listed below, check their website www.nccte.org regularly for their latest schedule and how to take part in the discussions.

November 7: *Building Community College/Baccalaureate Connections* with guest speakers George R. Boggs, American Association of Community Colleges; T. J. Bryan, Fayetteville State University; and Katherine L. German, Development Institute, Inc.

November 22: *Recruiting, Developing, and Retaining Quality Career Technical/Workforce Education (CTWE) Teachers* with guest speakers Gary Briers, Texas A&M University; Nancy Headrick, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; and Carol Lanning, Illinois Community College Board.

December 13: *Math in Career and Technical Education* with guest speaker James R. Stone III, National Research Center for Career and Technical Education.

Meanwhile at the Center for Law and Social Policy, the organization has a national audio conference call scheduled for **November 18** from 12:30-1:30 (ET). The call will focus on *Better Business: Making Work “Work” for Employers and Employees*. Items being

discussed include how to get employers in your community to make work “work”; what are the implications for low-wage workers of flexible work, etc. Guest speakers include Ellen Galinsky, President, Families and Work Institute, and Donna Klein, President and CEO, Corporate Voices for Working Families. Cost for taking part in the call is \$16. For more details, contact Soleste Lupu, 202.906.8031, or slupu@clasp.org.

Upcoming Events

November 16-19: The *Washington State School Directors’* annual conference takes place at the Westin Hotel in Seattle. The conference has a new format this year which includes 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.

Mark **November 29** for a one-day workshop sponsored by the *Washington Association for Career and Technical Education*. Entitled “Academies, Career Clusters, Small Learning Communities: Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships,” the event takes place at the Hilton Vancouver Washington Hotel and Convention Center. More details at www.wa-acte.org/pdf_files/11-29%20Connections.pdf.

Early registration for Focus 2005, the *Association for Career and Technical Education’s* national convention has been extended to November 13. Go to www.acteonline.org/convention/ for more details about this event which takes place in Kansas City from **December 8-10**.

Mark your calendars for the *Washington Association of Occupational Educators’* annual Tech-Prep Conference on **March 2-3, 2006** at the Pasco Red Lion. More details to come.

The *Washington Rural Health Association* is holding a Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference **March 23-24, 2006** at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park in Spokane. Check out more details at www.wrha.com/cal.html.