



# Workforce Board

Electronic Newsletter

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## Happy Holidays to all and Best Wishes for 2006

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### **Workforce Board Executive Director to Retire July 1**

Workforce Board Executive Director Ellen O'Brien Saunders is to retire July 1. She has been the Board's executive director since 1992, having previously worked at the Employment Security Department. Prior to moving to the Northwest, Ms. O'Brien Saunders served Governors in Ohio and Wisconsin.

During the next six months, Ms. O'Brien Saunders intends to concentrate on advocacy for the IPI (Integrated Performance Information) measures nationally. She will also be involved with the Board's issues in the Legislature, supporting Governor Gregoire's Washington Learns study, developing *High Skills High Wages 2006*, and leading the NGA Policy Academy to Improve Outcomes for Young Adults with Disabilities. She will also continue to look for opportunities to promote and strengthen career and technical education.

Details about the process for selecting a new executive director will be available at [www.wtb.wa.gov](http://www.wtb.wa.gov) once the Board has discussed how it will proceed.

**Employers Survey Results Highlight January Board Meeting**

A presentation and discussion of the implications of the Workforce Board's recently completed Employers Survey will highlight the Workforce Board's January 26 board meeting. Open to the public, the meeting will take place at the WorkSource office, 1570 Irving Street S.W., Tumwater from 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Other topics on the Board's agenda include presentation and discussion of the implications of *High Skills, High Wages 2006: Washington State's Economy* as well as a presentation from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction on high school reform. The Board will also review Perkins Career and Technical Education and Workforce Investment Act annual results, and have updates on Washington Learns and the NGA Academy to Improve Outcomes for Young Adults with Disabilities. There will also be an initial discussion on implementing the Work Readiness Credential (see separate story below).

People needing special accommodations should contact Julie Anderson at least seven days in advance at 360.753.5660, or [janderson@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:janderson@wtb.wa.gov).

### **New Agency and Board Appointments**

Governor Christine Gregoire has appointed Janet Lewis to the Workforce Board to represent labor.

Ms. Lewis has been an apprentice, owned and operated her own electrical construction firm, and studied for, and been admitted to, the Washington State Bar. Prior to joining the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in 2000 as its Local 46 business representative, she worked in the Department of Labor & Industries for several years both as a legislative policy analyst and program manager.

She is the labor representative on the Seattle/King County Building and Construction Trades Council as well as an executive board member of Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Employment for Women (ANEW), non-profit organization that trains low-income women and men to enter nontraditional employment.

During her career Ms. Lewis has received numerous awards, and in 1991 was selected Tradeswoman of the Decade. The following year she received an Excellence in Contracting Award, followed four years later by a Mary Ellen Krug scholarship, which is presented by the University of Washington Law School for excellence in labor and employment law.

Ms. Lewis replaces John McGinnis, a senior board member and retired executive director of the IAM/Boeing Joint Programs. Our sincerest thanks to John for his active involvement in the Board and its activities. His insight and comments on job training and other labor issues have served us all. We'll miss him---and hearing the latest progress report on a car museum project with which he is involved. Best wishes!

The Workforce Board has also announced the appointment of Julie Anderson to the position of Board Secretary. Ms. Anderson comes to the Board with a wealth of business knowledge and event planning experience.

Also new to the agency is Jamie Krause who will take up the position of manager, Training and Education Partnerships. Formerly with the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, she replaces Heather Fredericks who was recently appointed director, Construction Center of Excellence, Renton Technical College. Welcome to both.

### **High Energy at *High Skills, High Wages 2006* Work Groups**

Enthusiasm was high at two work groups - youth and low-income and diverse populations – held by the Workforce Board on December 14. More than 50 workforce professionals from across the state attended the two, three-hour meetings in Olympia called to generate ideas and input before the Workforce Board produces a draft strategic plan for workforce development. The report is due to the Governor and Legislature by the end of 2006.

To generate discussion, the Youth Work Group heard from Gay Neal about a successful dropout prevention program initiated by the Olympic Workforce Development Council. The program won a Governor’s Best Practice Award earlier this fall. Kirk Hopkins of the Spokane Skills Center also spoke, discussing Spokane Public Schools’ pre-apprenticeship program that provides high school students with a seamless entry into postsecondary apprenticeship training programs. As Ed Madden, Department of Labor & Industries Apprenticeship Coordinator-Longview area, reinforced: “Apprenticeship is more than just a job or a training program—it is paid on the job training.”

Tina Bloomer and David Prince of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges talked with the Low-Income/Diverse Populations work group about their “Bridges to Opportunity” program funded by the Ford Foundation. The discussion which followed was lively with Rhonda Simmons, Executive Director, Seattle Jobs Initiative pointing out, “The real question here is how can you get to scale. This is the most daunting task of the workforce system. Community colleges can get to scale, but what else needs to be in place to get the job done? The system has to take so many other things into account...Homelessness, drug abuse, poverty, incarceration.....A true workforce system doesn't exist right now, and can't unless it successfully deals with these difficult issues.”

For more information about each group and copies of the presentations given, contact Madeleine Thompson, 360.753.5653, [mthompson@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:mthompson@wtb.wa.gov).

### **Work Readiness Credential—One Step Closer to Launch**

Washington State, along with the District of Columbia, New York, New Jersey, Florida, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, are one step closer to launching the Work Readiness Credential this spring.

Last month, the states completed the second round of test validation exams. Fifty-one people took the Work Readiness test in various locations around the state and across the country. These “tests of the test” were designed to verify the accuracy and capacity of the project to succeed on a nationwide basis.

Special thanks to the Spokane Regional Chamber of Commerce, Spokane Community College, Tri-County Worksource Center, Perry Technical Institute in Yakima, the Snohomish County Workforce Development Council, and the Everett WorkSource Center for their assistance in this process.

The Work Readiness Credential is designed to document the achievement of skills—both 'hard' and 'soft'—that employers across industry sectors agree are essential for successful entry into the workforce.

For additional information about the Work Readiness Credential, contact Pam Lund, 360.586.8678, [plund@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:plund@wtb.wa.gov).

### **Briefly**

#### *Interest in WIRED High*

Interest in the Department of Labor's WIRED Grant Initiative is running high. Workforce Board Associate Director Pam Lund has received numerous queries from foundation, partnerships, and special interest groups around the state about the workforce innovation grant announced earlier this month. For those who still have questions or need assistance, DOL has posted several items—from FAQs to a webinar held on December 7—on its website [www.doleta.gov/](http://www.doleta.gov/). From the applications received, a state review committee will recommend several to the Governor who can submit up to three applications from Washington State for the award grant.

#### *Big Bend a Bellweather Finalist*

Big Bend Community College's program, IBEST for Commercial Truck Driving, is a Bellweather finalist. It will compete with nine other workforce-related programs across the country on January 23 for the prestigious 2006 Bellwether Award being held at the Community College Futures Assembly in Orlando, FL. The Bellwether Awards annually recognize outstanding and innovative programs and practices that are successfully leading community colleges into the future. Congratulations Big Bend, and good luck at the finals!

*Ormsby, Priest and McAuliffe Named Legislators of the Year.* The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education has named Representatives Timm Ormsby and Skip Priest as well as Senator Rosemary McAuliffe its 2005 Legislators of the Year. The awards are presented annually to those legislators who have shown "positive support for CTE programs, worked well with local CTE professionals during the session and in the district, and have a strong voting record in support of CTE issues."

#### *Webcasts – Hear What Dr. Lisa Pletcher Had to Say*

The National Dissemination Center has archived a number of its webcasts at [www.nccte.org](http://www.nccte.org). Tune in if you missed Clark College's Dean of Workforce Education, Dr. Lisa Pletcher's panel discussion on *Improving Secondary and Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Transitions*.

### **Job Opportunity**

The Workforce Development Council for the City and County of Spokane is seeking a Workforce Strategy and Development Director. Job responsibilities include developing and implementing strategy and the strategic/tactical planning and

administration/development of federal, state and local workforce programs. The salary range is \$66,043 - \$81,954, and a detailed job description and application form is available at [www.spokanecity.org](http://www.spokanecity.org). Applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and application to Diane Hendricks, Human Resources Department, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd. Spokane WA 99201 or email to [dhendricks@spokanecity.org](mailto:dhendricks@spokanecity.org). Deadline is 5 P.M. on January 13.

### **Upcoming Events**

The *Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction* is holding its annual January Conference and High School Summit on **January 17-19** at the State Convention Center in Seattle. More program information is available at [www.k12.wa.us/conferences/JanConf2006/JanuaryConference2006A.pdf](http://www.k12.wa.us/conferences/JanConf2006/JanuaryConference2006A.pdf).

The *Future by Design* conference and workshops will take place at the Doubletree Guest Suites at South Center near SeaTac on **February 6-7**. The conference targets educators or professionals working in one-stops, counseling organizations, human resources, or anywhere people transition and communication are essential to their job. For more information, contact Jan Palmer, 206.870.5912, or go to [www.learningconnections.org/Workforce/2006/](http://www.learningconnections.org/Workforce/2006/).

National Career and Technical Education Week is slated for **February 12-18**. Don't miss this opportunity to promote CTE in your community or at your school. Promotional materials and general information are available at [http://acteonline.org/career\\_tech/tech\\_week/index.cfm](http://acteonline.org/career_tech/tech_week/index.cfm).

The *National Association of Workforce Boards* is holding its annual conference on **February 25-28** at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington D.C. Entitled "Think Local, Act Global: Transforming Globalization Challenges into Opportunities for America's Workforce and Business," the conference has as its guest speakers Ted Fishmen, author of "China, Inc. How the Rise of the Next Superpower Challenges America and the World," and Pamela Passman, Vice President of Global Corporate Affairs at Microsoft. Go to [www.nawb.org/forum2006/index.htm](http://www.nawb.org/forum2006/index.htm) to register and get more details.

"Journey to Excellence" is the theme of this year's *Washington Association of Occupational Educators'* annual Tech-Prep Conference taking place on **March 2-3** at the Pasco Red Lion. For a brochure and more information about the conference, go to [www.wa-acte.org/pdf\\_files/06%20WAOE%20Brochure.pdf](http://www.wa-acte.org/pdf_files/06%20WAOE%20Brochure.pdf).

"Strengthening Linkages for Student Success" is the theme of its 2006 Collaboration Conference being held **March 22-24** at the DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac. The conference, sponsored by the *Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction*, is designed to showcase and share innovative practices between schools, neighborhoods, and communities. More details at [www.k12.wa.us/conferences/Collaboration2006/default.aspx](http://www.k12.wa.us/conferences/Collaboration2006/default.aspx).

The *Washington Rural Health Association* is holding a Northwest Regional Rural Health Conference **March 23-24** at the Red Lion Hotel at the Park in Spokane. Check out details by contacting Kaarin Appel at 509.358.7509, or [kappel@wsu.edu](mailto:kappel@wsu.edu).

The *National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium* will hold its annual spring meeting in Washington D.C at the Hilton Hotel **April 8-11**. For more details, watch NASDCTEC's website at [www.careertech.org/](http://www.careertech.org/)

Mark **May 31 - June 3** for “Walking the Talk: Achieving the Promise of Authentic Partnerships”, a conference sponsored by *Community-Campus Partnerships for Health* in Minneapolis, MN. The conference is geared for those interested in community-based participatory research, in service-learning, community and economic development, and partnership development. Learn more at [depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf-overview.html](http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conf-overview.html).

### **Funding Resources**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Northwest Health Foundation have announced the *Partners Investing in Nursing's Future Initiative* that will address nursing issues at the local level through funding partnerships with community and regional foundations. The initiative will provide two-year grants of up to \$250,000, which must be matched with at least \$1 for every \$2 provided by this program. Grant monies are available to local or regional private, family, or community 501(c)(3) foundations and public charities. Government entities, corporations, or corporate grantmakers may participate, but may not serve as the applicant organization. More details at [www.partnersinnursing.org/](http://www.partnersinnursing.org/). Deadline is February 16.