

*A Guide to
Careers and Occupations
in Washington State*



**PLAN
FOR TOMORROW
TODAY**

JANUARY 2002

WORKFORCE TRAINING AND EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

<http://www.wtb.wa.gov/careerguide>



GARY LOCKE
Governor

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Message from the Governor

As Governor of the state of Washington, I am pleased to share with you, *Plan For Tomorrow Today*, a publication provided by the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. *Plan For Tomorrow Today* will help you learn about the education, training and employment opportunities available in our state. It will also assist in focusing your career search.

Plan For Tomorrow Today contains information on hundreds of occupations, including wage data, employment outlook and location of education and training sites. The guide discusses financial aid, non-traditional employment, special services and suggestions for getting and keeping a job. A new feature is the list of Internet addresses to use in expanding your career search.

Washington's future has always been connected to its people and its excellent education programs, diverse workforce and numerous workplace opportunities. More than ever before, our continued prosperity will depend on our ability to acquire higher levels of skill which can translate into higher-wage employment.

As Governor, and as a parent, I place great value and importance in our state's ability to maintain education and employment options for all residents. *Plan For Tomorrow Today* can help you select the option that's right for you – for today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Gary Locke
Governor

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (WTECB), welcome to the 1998 edition of *Plan For Tomorrow Today*.

Whether you are a student considering your future occupation or an adult making a career change, choosing a career is an important and challenging decision. Your decision to attend a community or technical college, private vocational school, four-year college, enter military service, or enter the workforce depends greatly on the information you have to make your decision.

Plan For Tomorrow Today is a great place to start. Section One - Career Search - will help you assess your interests and abilities, and introduce you to more than 330 occupations, along with wage data and employment outlook for each occupation. Section Two - Education and Training Opportunities - describes the various education and training options available in Washington State, including information about apprenticeship and nontraditional employment. Section Three - Preparing for Employment - provides information about getting and keeping a job, and some special services that may be of interest.

Plan for Tomorrow Today will soon be on the Internet at www.wa.gov/careerguide. We are developing the electronic version of the career guide to replace the printed version which will be discontinued after copies of this edition are depleted. In the future, this site may be expanded to include a wide array of career and related information with links to many other state and national sources of information. I encourage you to use this exciting new format to assist you in gathering information about careers and occupations.

Wishing you success, now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Ellen O'Brien Saunders
Executive Director

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Welcome to

Plan for Tomorrow Today — A Guide to Careers and Occupations in Washington State

THE CAREER GUIDE IS PRESENTED IN THREE SECTIONS

Section I—Career Search

is a self-assessment tool presented in three files: B-1, B-2, and B-3 (see Table of Contents on following page). B-1 is designed to help you determine your interests and aptitudes, which will help you focus on occupations that are right for you. This section also includes information about the Washington Occupational Information System, WILMA, and Consumer Reports providing more detailed information about occupations and the world of work. Included in section B-2 are descriptions of more than 330 occupations (arranged in 16 career areas) along with wage data and employment outlook. Section I B-3 correlates occupations and education and training opportunities.

Section II—Education and Training Opportunities

provides a description of Washington's education and training programs and many related services. The location of education and training sites for each occupation is also included.

Section III—Preparing for Employment

offers suggestions about getting and keeping a job. This section also provides "supporting information" about licensing and other state and local agencies that provide employment assistance.

GETTING STARTED

Deciding what you want to do with your life is not easy. Whether you are looking forward to your first job, going back to work after an absence, or simply interested in finding a different kind of work, you will need a general plan and a sense of direction. If you set a general goal and consider a variety of options, your chances of finding job satisfaction are much better than if you drift from one goal to another.

Many people get discouraged, not because they have set unrealistic goals for themselves, but because they haven't explored all the possibilities to help them reach these goals.

While there are many sources to help you select a career, **you** must take the responsibility for making your own decisions.

PLEASE NOTE

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication. However, the information is subject to change without notice, and final career decisions are the responsibility of the reader.

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