

2016 Washington Workforce Development News



December 20, 2016

GOVERNOR INSLEE PROVIDES \$2 MILLION IN GRANTS TO UPSKILL WASHINGTON'S WORKFORCE

Gov. Inslee is making available some \$2 million in grants to be awarded to demonstration projects that help Washington's current workforce and new hires create pathways to gainful employment and higher wages, especially those at the lowest income levels or with other disadvantages. The Governor is deploying funds through the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). It's part of a broader push to "upskill" Washington's workforce and "jumpstart" the state's workforce plan, "Talent and Prosperity for All." Deadline to apply is February 28. Gov. Inslee has also earmarked an additional \$1 million in federal workforce funds to help a broad coalition of individuals and organizations implement additional components of the state's workforce plan. More info, including application guidelines at: <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/TAPAccelerator.asp>

WORKFORCE BOARD HOLDS JOINT MEETING JANUARY 11 WITH STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Workforce Board meets January 11 in Tumwater and will spend the meeting's first half discussing, among other items, how to make workforce data displays more accessible and how the state's strategic workforce plan "Talent and Prosperity for All" (TAP) is being implemented. The second half of the meeting starts at 1 p.m. and is being held in conjunction with the State Board of Education. Both boards will discuss efforts to define and advance career readiness. More: <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Jan11agenda.asp>

CLARK COUNTY SKILLS CENTER GETS NEW NAME

Clark County Skills Center has been renamed Cascadia Technical Academy. The newly renamed academy, which got its start in 1983, is jointly operated by nine school districts in southwest Washington and Educational Service District 112 in Vancouver. High school students from participating districts are able to enroll in a variety of career-focused programs, including medical sciences, automotive technology, aviation technology, construction technology, cosmetology, criminal justice, culinary, dental, homeland security and more. More at: <http://www.ccskillscenter.com/about-us.html>

PACIFIC NORTHWEST AEROSPACE ALLIANCE TO HOST 16th ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY

The Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance is hosting a conference Feb. 13-16 in Lynnwood, dubbed "The Competitive Edge: Implementing Technology & Innovation." Register for the conference and hear about dramatic advancements in technology and operational innovations currently being applied in aerospace technology. More: <http://pnaa.net/events/annual-conference/2017-conference>

OSPI EXTENDS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NEW ESSA PLAN

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has extended the public comment period into February for the new Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Draft Consolidated Plan. ESSA is the federal education law that governs K-12 public education policy in the U.S. The Consolidated Plan, released in mid November, details how Washington will implement ESSA, according to six core concepts. To make comments and get more info: <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/ESSA/default.aspx>

December 6, 2016

WORKFORCE BOARD RELEASES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REPORT

The Workforce Board, in partnership with the Health Workforce Council, has released a new report that includes recommendations to policymakers on ways to address shortages, distribution challenges, and retention issues in the behavioral health workforce. The project is supported by Gov. Inslee's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act discretionary funding. Phase Two of this work will continue in 2017 with a final report due next December. Read the Phase One report at: <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/behavioralhealthgroup.asp>

WORKFORCE SNOHOMISH CONVENES EMPLOYER ROUNDTABLES TOMORROW

Industry employers representing manufacturing, healthcare, and retail will gather tomorrow, Dec. 7, from 12:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. for a Sector Partnership Town Hall at Workforce Snohomish in Everett. It's a quarterly effort to bring together area employers, workforce, and education partners to discuss and propose solutions to regional workforce challenges. Find out more: <http://www.workforcesnohomish.org/company/events.html>

ADVANCE CTE AWARD APPLICATION DEADLINE NEARS

Advance CTE, the national organization representing Career and Technical Education, is seeking nominations of innovative CTE programs of study from across the nation at the middle school, high school, and college levels. Winners will be honored at an awards ceremony in May 2017 in Washington, D.C. Deadline to apply is December 14. More: <https://careertech.org/excellence-action-award>

STILL TIME TO COMMENT ON STATE'S DRAFT EDUCATION PLAN

The public is invited to comment on a draft plan that provides details on how Washington state will implement the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, which replaced No Child Left Behind. The state's plan outlines six core concepts, including long term goals and measurement of interim progress, support for excellent educators, and support of all students, among others. Deadline to comment on the plan is December 15. Learn more at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/ESSA/default.aspx>

CTE SHOWCASE OF SKILLS HOMELESS HOUSE PROJECT SEEKS SUPPORT

The Workforce Board is putting together a demonstration project that showcases the skills of Career and Technical Education (CTE) students through a one-day competition on Olympia's Capitol Campus in March of 2017. The competition features 25 teams from Washington high schools, Skill Centers, and community and technical colleges. Find out more about this project that helps shelter the homeless and builds skills, and how you can help support it through contributions for building materials, tools, and more. <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/CTEHomelessHouseProject.asp>

November 1, 2016

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS TOMORROW TO DISCUSS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA, TAP IMPLEMENTATION

The Workforce Board is expected to take action on its 2017 Legislative agenda at a board meeting tomorrow in Olympia that starts at 9 a.m. Also on the agenda are proposed charters that will help guide committees implementing the state's workforce plan "Talent and Prosperity for All." More at: <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Nov2agenda.asp>

SPOKANE'S NEXT GENERATION ZONE OPENS STUDENT ENGAGEMENT CENTER

The Next Generation Zone, Spokane's one-stop career center for young adults, has grown rapidly over the past few years, with over 3,800 young people visiting the center annually, according to the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council. Many are enrolled in GED preparation, along with other education and job search classes. Last month, a new Student Engagement Center opened to help meet demand. It includes a classroom,

testing room, computer lab, learning tables, student lounge, and cafeteria. For more information or to tour the new facility contact Jessica Clayton, Spokane Area Workforce Development Council Program and Development Director, at jclayton@wdcspokane.com

SENTINEL NETWORK SENDS OUT SECOND SURVEY TO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

The Washington State Health Workforce Sentinel Network has launched its second statewide survey on healthcare employment. Data collected from the survey help employers, educators, and policymakers craft solutions to emerging workforce issues in both rural and urban areas of the state. The Sentinel Network is also looking for more healthcare providers to help identify potential healthcare personnel shortages by participating as a Sentinel. The network is a collaboration of the Workforce Board and the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies, with funding from Washington's Health Care Authority. Register now and learn more at <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/HealthSentinel/>

REGISTER FOR NOVEMBER 14 JUVENILE JUSTICE REENTRY SYMPOSIUM

A Juvenile Justice Reentry Symposium organized by the Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice and the DSHS Office of Juvenile Justice is set for Nov. 14 at the Seattle Airport Marriott. Conference organizers hope to create an action plan by bringing together agencies, organizations, and community advocates focused on serving youth who are released from juvenile justice facilities. The symposium will also focus on racial and ethnic disparities, along with community support, behavioral health, education, employment, housing, and advocacy. Find out more and register at <http://www.cvent.com/d/rvq08x>

NINTH ANNUAL PIERCE COUNTY CAREER DAY SET FOR NOVEMBER 17

Workforce Central in Tacoma is helping organize Pierce County Career Day at the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 17. More than 2,000 high school students are expected to attend this one-day event that highlights career opportunities in utilities, construction, manufacturing, transportation, aerospace, and a variety of apprenticeship programs. More details: <http://buildingyourcareer.org/ccd/>

October 24, 2016

"UPSKILL BACKFILL" CONCEPT FEATURED AT SPECIAL WORKFORCE BOARD MEETING

The Workforce Board is holding a special phone-in meeting Tuesday, October 25 from 1-3 p.m. On the agenda is Gov. Inslee's "TAP Accelerator: Upskill-Backfill" project to advance the state's workforce plan, "Talent and Prosperity for All," (TAP). This project will use \$3 million from the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act discretionary funds for activities that advance implementation of the state's workforce plan goals. The "Upskill-Backfill" aspect will prioritize activities that encourage employers to improve their current workforce through additional education and training for promotions to higher level positions and create entry-level vacancies for new workers to fill. More: <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/October25agenda.asp>

U.S. DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND LABOR FORMALLY APPROVE STATE WORKFORCE PLAN

The U.S. Departments of Education and Labor formally approved Washington's state workforce plan last week. In September, the federal agencies "substantially approved" the plan but required the state to make several revisions. Six inter-agency implementation committees have been formed and are beginning this work. For more about TAP and the federal approval letter see: <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/WAWorkforcePlan.asp>

FIRST EVER GOVERNOR'S YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP SUMMIT SLATED FOR NOVEMBER 1

Learn from other states about apprenticeship program models and hear about apprenticeship expansion here in Washington at the Governor's Youth Apprenticeship Summit, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Nov. 1, at Bates Technical College in Tacoma. Participants will discuss target industries and occupations, program design

options, dual enrollment strategies, and youth employment rules and regulations. Register at: <http://conta.cc/2eQ12iG>

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT DATA THROUGH WORKFORCE BOARD STUDENT DATA PORTAL IS FRIDAY

Private career schools licensed and regulated by the Workforce Board have until this Friday, October 28, to submit data through the agency's Student Data Portal. Agency staff use this data to calculate program completion rates, employment rates, and earnings for programs that provide short-term, career-focused training to about 34,000 students per year. The Workforce Board publishes these "consumer report cards" on www.CareerBridge.wa.gov. Learn more at: [http://www.wtb.wa.gov/PCS AnnualReport.asp](http://www.wtb.wa.gov/PCS%20AnnualReport.asp)

WORKFORCE BOARD'S STUDENT DATA PORTAL LAUDED FOR BEING "LEAN"

Last week, Workforce Board staffers led two presentations at the Governor's Lean Transformation Conference in Tacoma on the process used to develop multiple changes to the Student Data Portal to improve the experience for both customers and staff. Among the improvements: an "error-proof" spreadsheet, user-centered web design, and two live webinars that took customers through the process. Staff also created an automated call log which times how long it takes to resolve problems and identifies areas for further improvements.

WASHINGTON CTE CONFERENCE SET FOR NOVEMBER 3-4 AT GREAT WOLF LODGE

There's still time to register for the fall Washington Association for Career and Technical Education conference: <http://wa-acte.org/confupcoming.php>

October 4, 2016

NEW "TAP" BUTTON AVAILABLE ON WORKFORCE BOARD HOME PAGE

We're proud to reveal our new, clickable, "Talent and Prosperity for All" (TAP) button on our Workforce Board home page. Be sure to click it to find out more about the state's new strategic workforce plan, how to get involved with TAP implementation committees working to take action on the plan, and a calendar that connects you to more details on meetings and materials. Learn more at www.wtb.wa.gov.

YAKIMA AND TOPPENISH RECEIVE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR GRANTS FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

Yakima's Opportunities Industrialization Center of Washington and the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic in Toppenish each received approximately \$1.1 million in YouthBuild grants from the U.S. Department of Labor. YouthBuild is a community-based, alternative education program that provides job training and educational opportunities for at-risk youth, ages 16-24. The grants will help at-risk youth complete high school or state equivalency degree programs, earn industry-recognized certifications within in-demand occupations, and gain construction skills training to build housing for low-income or homeless individuals and families in their communities. <https://www.youthbuild.org/>

MY JOB LAUNCHES AT YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES TO CONNECT YOUNG PEOPLE WITH WORK-BASED LEARNING

Young people incarcerated at Green Hill School in Chehalis and the Naselle Youth Camp in Pacific County now have better access to internships, pre-apprenticeships, job shadowing, and on-the-job training. Gov. Inslee signed an executive order earlier this year aimed at improving opportunities for those leaving correctional facilities and returning to their communities. MyJOB, a partnership between the Rehabilitation Administration, the Department of Social and Health Service's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, local Workforce Development Councils and school districts, launched in early September. More at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/node/28471>

STUDENTS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID STARTING IN OCTOBER

October 1 is the new start date to apply for financial aid in the 2017-18 school year. This is a full three months earlier than in years past. The new start date is one of two changes to the FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The second change lets people import their 2015 tax returns to answer income questions. More details at: <http://bit.ly/2dZsCZR>

OSPI HOLDS MONTHLY WEBINARS ON DATA ANALYTICS TO IMPROVE STUDENT PERFORMANCE

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is conducting a series of monthly webinars on best practices relating to performance indicators, such as chronic absenteeism, behavior, ninth grade failure, and postsecondary enrollment and remediation. The series is aimed at school counselors, educators, and community partners who wish to improve support systems, data use, and instruction to boost student achievement. It's part of OSPI's Graduation A Team Effort (GATE). Register at: <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/6153294055793021954>

PAVE THE WAY CONFERENCE EARLY BIRD RATES END FRIDAY

Early bird rates for the Washington Student Achievement Council's "Pave the Way" conference Nov. 1-2 in Tacoma are available through Friday. So register soon to get a better price. The conference focuses on policies and strategies aimed at helping underrepresented and underserved students achieve educational success. Read more about the conference at: <http://www.wsac.wa.gov/pavetheway>

September 22, 2016

NEW "TAP" LANDING PAGE LAUNCHES ON WORKFORCE BOARD WEBSITE

The Workforce Board has launched a new landing page focused on the state's workforce plan as implementation committees begin the hard work of putting "Talent and Prosperity for All" (TAP) into action. The new web page includes a central calendar featuring TAP committee dates and times, links to all implementation committees and their supporting documents, and links to both the complete state workforce plan as well as access to local workforce plans being implemented by the state's 12 regional Workforce Development Councils. Tap into all this handy information and find out more about workforce planning efforts at: <http://wtb.wa.gov/WAWorkforcePlan.asp>

WORKFORCE SNOHOMISH RECEIVES GRANT TO STRENGTHEN RETAIL INDUSTRY MOBILITY

Workforce Snohomish was one of 10 workforce development boards from across the country selected to receive a grant to help increase economic mobility of workers in retail and adjacent sectors. Workforce Snohomish received a \$314,000 grant from the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, as part of a collective effort to form and implement new models of career services specific to retail. These models are intended to serve as best practices for the approximately 550 workforce development boards that provide career services nationally. More: <http://www.workforcesnohomish.org/>

NEW SURVEY WILL HELP IDENTIFY WORK-BASED LEARNING PROGRAMS IN WASHINGTON

Do you oversee or staff a program with a work-based learning component? You're encouraged to take a survey designed to create an "asset map" of all available programs in the state. Results of the survey will help shape recommendations to policymakers and others on how to expand these types of programs. The survey was created as part of a National Governors Association Policy Academy on Work-Based Learning led by the Workforce Board and Governor's Office. Take the survey: <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/WorkBasedLearningPolicyAcademy.asp>

SEPTEMBER IS K-12 ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

During the 2014-15 school year, one out of every six students in Washington was absent at least 18 days, harming their ability to stay on track with their classes and weakening their connection to school. A nationwide effort is tackling this problem, with events slated in 40 states, including Washington. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction supports the effort to combat chronic absenteeism and has a webpage with resources, including workshops, handouts for educators and parents, and more.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/attendance/default.aspx>

WORKFORCE BOARD HIRING FISCAL ANALYST

The Workforce Board has an opening for a Fiscal Analyst 5. This position reports to the agency's Chief Financial Officer and supports the agency's mission by serving as the accounting expert and primary advisor to the CFO. This position is central to the development of contracts, the payment of bills, the reconciliation of 1099 reporting, the preparation of invoices for accounts receivable, and more. Get more details at:

<http://www.wtb.wa.gov/EmploymentOpportunities.asp>

EARLY BIRD RATES AVAILABLE FOR WASHINGTON WORKFORCE CONFERENCE

The Washington Workforce Association is hosting a conference Nov. 9-10 that focuses on key areas of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and emphasizes the importance of partnerships in meeting customers' needs, both jobseekers and employers. The Washington Workforce Conference will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in SeaTac. Get early bird rates until Oct. 5. Register at: <http://bit.ly/2dhYaa2>

September 1, 2016

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS NEXT WEEK IN YAKIMA

The Workforce Board is meeting Sept. 6-7 in Yakima and will tour aircraft manufacturer Cub Crafters on Tuesday afternoon. Cub Crafters' employees participate in the "Make it in Washington" education grant administered by the Workforce Board. The grant focuses on rural, mid-sized manufacturers in 31 WA counties. The Board will also meet on Wednesday to discuss career readiness and implementation of the state's workforce plan "Talent and Prosperity for All." Get more details at: <http://wtb.wa.gov/September6-7Yakima.asp>

STUDENT DATA PORTAL OPENS TODAY

The Workforce Board's Student Data Portal opened today. Private career schools are encouraged to submit their data as soon as possible through this secure, online portal. The portal will be open through Oct. 28. All private vocational schools licensed by the Workforce Board and other schools with programs on the state's Eligible Training Provider List are required to submit student data. The data is used to evaluate education programs, including whether participants got jobs and how much they earned. This information is shared with the public on the CareerBridge.wa.gov site. Details: http://wtb.wa.gov/PCS_AnnualReport.asp

NEW OLYMPIC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Elizabeth Court has been tapped to be the new director of the Olympic Workforce Development Council, which includes Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap counties. Court began her new role on Aug. 25. Her professional background includes positions as a labor economist for the state's Employment Security Department, assistant director for the University of Washington Educational Outreach, and, earlier in her career, serving as a "radioman" in the U.S. Coast Guard. Read more at: <http://www.kitsapgov.com/press/2016/NR16-074.htm>

CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT HOSTS HIDDEN WORKFORCE FORUM

Washington's Correctional Industries is hosting an employer forum Tuesday, Oct. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup. The forum showcases how area employers are tapping the talents of formerly incarcerated Washingtonians, sometimes referred to as a "hidden workforce." At the forum,

Correctional Industries Community Employment Services will share more details about linking skilled workers with employers. Get more details and register at: <http://www.washingtonci.com/about-ci/news-events/news-archive/ces-forum.html>

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION OPENS FOR 10th ANNUAL GEAR UP WEST CONFERENCE

The 10th annual GEAR UP West Conference is being held in Spokane Oct. 16-18. GEAR UP is a federal grant program aimed at education and community partnerships to increase the number of low-income students prepared to enter and succeed in education after high school. The conference will bring together about 600 educators, counselors, and administrators from a dozen Western states to learn more about developments in student support, financial aid, family engagement and more. <http://gearup.wa.gov/about/what-we-do/gear-west>

August 19, 2016

REGISTER FOR UPCOMING WORKFORCE BOARD STUDENT DATA REPORTING WEBINARS

The Workforce Board is holding two webinars to help schools learn to more quickly and efficiently upload data to the agency's online Student Data Portal, which officially opens September 1. The first webinar is next Tuesday, August 23 at 10 a.m. The second is slated for August 31. All private vocational schools licensed by the Workforce Board and schools with certain programs on the state's Eligible Training Provider List are required to submit student data. Get more details and register at http://wtb.wa.gov/PCS_AnnualReport.asp

WORKFORCE BOARD AWARDED U.S.D.A. RURAL ENTERPRISE GRANT

The Workforce Board was recently awarded an \$80,000, one-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to survey agriculture-related manufacturers, processors, and packagers in 10 rural Washington counties. Ag-related firms will be asked whether they have access to sufficient educational resources for their employees, and what types of skills-training and classes they would like to see offered in their area. More details at: <http://wtb.wa.gov/RuralEnterpriseGrant.asp>

WORKFORCE CENTRAL AWARDS \$2.7 MILLION TO CAREER PATH SERVICES

Workforce Central, the Workforce Development Council that serves Pierce County, has contracted with Career Path Services to provide comprehensive workforce services to Pierce County jobseekers. Career Path Services, a private nonprofit headquartered in Spokane, will provide career coaching and employment search, among other services, in partnership with WorkSource partners. More at: <http://www.workforce-central.org/Home/Components/News/News/216/18?backlist=%2f>

SEATTLE JOBS INITIATIVE TO HOST "MYTH BUSTING" CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON POVERTY

The Seattle Jobs Initiative is hosting a conference Oct. 13 at the Hotel Deca in Seattle aimed at shattering poverty myths and improving program design. Gain insight into the realities of those living in poverty to help design more relevant, effective, and human-centered programs. Learn more about the conference and register at: <http://www.seattlejobsinitiative.com/news/conference/>

SAVE THE DATE FOR WASHINGTON WORKFORCE CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 9-10

This new conference, headed up by the Washington Workforce Association, will focus on business solutions, job seeker strategies, youth engagement, and system administration, and strengthens connections to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and the state's strategic workforce plan "Talent and Prosperity for All." The event will be held at the SeaTac Doubletree. Registration begins Sept. 6. More details coming soon!

July 19, 2016

WORKFORCE BOARD TO TAKE ACTION ON LOCAL WORKFORCE PLANS AT FRIDAY MEETING

The Workforce Board will hold a special phone-in meeting Friday (July 22) to review and take action on local workforce plans. These plans have been revised by local Workforce Development Councils to align with the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Washington's 12 workforce areas each have local plans intended to boost the skill levels of the local workforce, increase employment and earnings, and raise customer satisfaction for both jobseekers and businesses who rely on a skilled workforce. Meeting details:

<http://wtb.wa.gov/July22specialmeeting.asp>

STATE WORKFORCE PLAN "SUBSTANTIALLY APPROVED" BY FEDERAL AGENCIES

Washington's workforce plan, "Talent and Prosperity for All," was substantially approved recently by the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education. Like other states, Washington was waiting for a federal response to its plan, in particular to how the plan addressed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). The federal response letter congratulated Washington on its work and laid out areas for improvement. Read the letter at: <http://wtb.wa.gov/WAWorkforcePlan.asp>

WORKFORCE BOARD SCHEDULES JULY RETREAT

Members of the Workforce Board will gather in Leavenworth July 28 and July 29 for the Board's annual retreat. Among the topics of discussion: How to ensure the board achieves its goal of high performance, especially as it leads implementation of the "Talent and Prosperity for All" state workforce plan. Meeting materials coming soon at www.wtb.wa.gov.

HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK CURRENTLY RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

The Sentinel Network is currently recruiting volunteer healthcare employers for a project that will help track Washington's rapidly changing health workforce. Employers have until July 31 to participate in the first data collection period. The network is led by the Workforce Board in collaboration with the state's Health Care Authority and the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies. The project will collect key data at regular intervals from sentinel healthcare industry sites and provide rapid turnaround of information about emerging issues affecting employers, educators, training institutions, and other stakeholders. More at: <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/HealthSentinel/>

REGISTER NOW FOR WA-ACTE SUMMER CONFERENCE IN SPOKANE

It's almost time for the annual Washington Association for Career and Technical Education Aug. 7-10 conference in Spokane. The Workforce Board is among the sponsors of this multi-day conference aimed at CTE teachers from around the state. <http://wa-acte.org/confsummer.php>

June 30, 2016

WORKFORCE BOARD TO DISCUSS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "CAREER READY" AT SPECIAL JULY 6 MEETING

The Workforce Board will review state and national career readiness initiatives at a special meeting, July 6, in Olympia. The Board will then discuss how to collaborate with the State Board of Education to define career readiness standards for Washington students, align state policy to the definition, and integrate career readiness measures into the state's education accountability system. More meeting details:

<http://wtb.wa.gov/July6meeting.asp>

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S COMMUNITY FORUM IN SPOKANE INCLUDES CAREER READINESS

The State Board of Education will hold a community forum on closing the achievement gap, and career and college readiness, at Spokane's Ferris High School Commons, Tuesday, July 12 at 5:30 p.m. This is a public meeting. Register:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ecp8hc8vc25d3170&llr=ix6o7mcab>

NEW LABOR MARKET INFO ON ESD.WA.GOV

Washington's Employment Security Department now features labor market information on its website, ESD.WA.GOV. Previously this information was located on a separate website. The new webpages use Tableau technology and a dashboard format to make the information more accessible and reader friendly. Check out the state's monthly employment report, local unemployment statistics, county profiles, and more:

<https://www.esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo>.

WORKFORCE COUNCIL CHANGES NAME TO WORKFORCE SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council will begin doing business as Workforce Southwest Washington starting July 1. (That's tomorrow!). In addition to the new name, the nonprofit workforce development board, which serves Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties, expects to launch a new website, www.WorkforceSW.org in mid July. Changes from the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) spurred an update to the organization's strategic plan and led to the adoption of the new name and brand.

OSPI ADDS REGIONAL FORUMS FOR EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction is hosting a series of forums across the state to provide an overview of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, which replaced the No Child Left Behind Act. New forums were recently added in August. There's likely one near you. <http://www.k12.wa.us/esea/essa/forums.aspx>

June 20, 2016

WORKFORCE BOARD TO TAKE ACTION ON LOCAL WORKFORCE PLANS AT WEDNESDAY MEETING

The Workforce Board will hold a special phone-in meeting Wednesday (June 22) at 1:30 p.m. to review and take action on workforce plans for eight out of 12 local areas. These regional plans have been revised by local Workforce Development Councils to better align with the state's new workforce plan "Talent and Prosperity for All." Learn more about the review process and view the plans at <http://wtb.wa.gov/LocalWorkforcePlans.asp>.

More about the board meeting at: <http://wtb.wa.gov/June22agenda.asp>

WORKFORCE BOARD SEEKS REPRESENTATIVES TO SIT ON TAP IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEES

The Workforce Board is working with partner agencies and other stakeholders to recruit representatives to participate in six committees working on implementation of the state's workforce plan, "Talent and Prosperity for All" (TAP). The preliminary deadline to join one of these committees is July 15. More information at:

<http://wtb.wa.gov/TAPcommittees.asp>

WA TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT PROVIDES PRE-APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS

The Washington State Department of Transportation's Office of Equal Opportunity has awarded nearly \$360,000 to organizations that provide outreach, training, and support services to boost apprenticeship participation by women, minorities and socially and economically disadvantaged Washington residents. Recipients include ANEW (King County), Perry Tech (Yakima County), Spokane Community College (Spokane County), Cooper Zietz/Akana (Southwest WA). Read more about this award and other WSDOT pre-apprenticeship financial support, along with a pilot program focused on immigrants, and a statewide support

services program for first-year apprentices at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/EqualOpportunity/pass> (Click 2015-17 PASS Grant Announcement of Awards).

L&I RECEIVES \$200,000 FEDERAL GRANT TO EXPAND APPRENTICESHIPS

The state's Department of Labor & Industries will expand apprenticeship opportunities in Washington thanks to a \$200,000 U.S. Department of Labor grant. The grant is part of a larger effort to grow apprenticeships nationwide. In Washington, those who completed an apprenticeship earned more than \$67,000 per year, within six to nine months after exiting, according to the Workforce Board's 2015 Workforce Training Results. L&I will use its funding to increase the number of employers using apprenticeships to train their workforce, and to ease apprenticeship tracking and reporting requirements for employers on public works projects, such as roads and schools. Read more: <http://lni.wa.gov/News/2016/pr160613a.asp>

WORKFORCE BOARD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAPADAKIS TO FACILITATE PANEL AT JUNE 30 REACH HIGHER CONFERENCE

Workforce Board Executive Director Eleni Papadakis will facilitate a panel at the upcoming Reach Higher conference in Olympia. This national initiative from First Lady Michelle Obama encourages students to complete their education past high school, whether at a professional training program, community or technical college, or four-year college or university. The Olympia conference is focused on the role of K-12 school counselors in driving both career and college readiness.

More http://www.wa-schoolcounselor.org/calendar_day.asp?date=6/30/2016&event=55

June 6, 2016

WORKFORCE BOARD TO EVALUATE PROJECTED SHORTAGES IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Governor Jay Inslee today announced that the Workforce Board, in partnership with the Health Workforce Council, will evaluate current and projected shortages of behavioral health professionals. Behavioral health encompasses mental health as well as behaviors such as drug and alcohol use. The assessment will also address ongoing efforts to integrate primary care and behavioral health to ensure that treatment is better coordinated and that conditions are caught earlier and treated, or even prevented. It's not clear currently how many Washington health care professionals offer behavioral health services and if they are adequate in number to meet demand. <http://www.governor.wa.gov/news-media/inslee-takes-action-address-challenges-behavioral-health-care-workforce>

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS WEDNESDAY TO DISCUSS INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

The Workforce Board will meet at 9 a.m. Wednesday at Highline College in Des Moines to discuss business engagement strategies emphasized in the recently adopted Talent and Prosperity for All plan. The Board will also hear a report from the state's chief economist Steve Lerch, receive an update on organizational change at the Employment Security Department, and take action on the Workforce Board's 2017 agency operating budget, among other items. More meeting details at: <http://wtb.wa.gov/June8agenda.asp>

TWELVE FEDERAL AGENCIES SIGN JOINT LETTER TO STRENGTHEN CAREER PATHWAYS

Twelve federal agencies, including the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor, have signed a joint letter announcing a historic cross-agency collaboration on career pathways to bring them to scale on a national level. Career pathways help guide young people and adults in acquiring marketable skills and industry-recognized credentials by aligning education, training and employment, and human and social services among public agencies, and with employers. More info at: <http://www.ncpn.info/downloads/transforming-career-technical-education-summary.pdf>

WA BUSINESS WEEK SUMMER REGISTRATION OPENS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Registration is now open for Washington Business Week, a weeklong summer program that offers high school students the chance to immerse themselves in a variety of industries, face real-world challenges, build their leadership skills, network with working professionals, and explore future careers. The program is held in June, July, and August on four Washington college campuses. Business Week is also looking for volunteer mentors from the business community, and judges to help score team projects. Maybe that's you? Find out more at http://wbw.org/Students_How.aspx.

WASHINGTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION HOLDS SUMMER CONFERENCE TOMORROW

Legislative leaders, policy stakeholders, and economic development professionals from across the state will meet Tuesday and Wednesday in Moses Lake as part of the 2016 WEDA Summer Conference. More details at: <http://www.wedaonline.org/conference/2016summer.asp>

May 12, 2016

HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL TO DISCUSS SENTINEL NETWORK NEXT WEEK IN RENTON

The Health Workforce Council will meet Tuesday, May 17 at Renton Technical College from 1 to 4 p.m. to discuss, among other things, the implementation of Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network. Set to launch this summer, the network will offer healthcare providers the chance to weigh in on their workforce needs at regular intervals to help the state's education and training programs move quickly to fill skill gaps and expand programs. The Council is staffed by the Workforce Board. More meeting details: <http://wtb.wa.gov/HCTFmeetingslist.asp>

ESD LAUNCHES NEW JOB MATCH SITE: WORKSOURCEWA.COM

A new-and-improved website serving the state's WorkSource one-stop career centers launched earlier this month, replacing go2worksource.com. The new site offers unlimited job postings and new technology to find qualified candidates faster. Jobseekers have access to thousands of jobs, a new resume builder to help them stand out, and advanced job-search tools to find jobs more easily. An official kick-off for the site is scheduled for late June to give staff and customers time to fully transition to the new site. But you can check it out now at: www.WorkSourceWa.com

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIRED FOR "JOBS FOR WASHINGTON'S GRADUATES" FOUNDATION

Leslie Schmitz has been hired as the new executive director of the Jobs for Washington's Graduates (JWG) Foundation. Schmitz has over 20 years experience in corporate, government, academic and not-for-profit areas. JWG is the Washington affiliate of Jobs for America's Graduates, which focuses on helping at-risk youth stay in school, graduate, continue their education, and achieve careers. The program currently operates in 40 middle schools, high schools, and Skills Centers in Washington. The Foundation hopes to double the number of JWG school-based sites. Schmitz succeeds former Executive Director Kim Browne. <http://www.jag.org/node/437>

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SUMMER INSTITUTE AND REACH HIGHER WA

School counselors are encouraged to attend a day-long technical assistance summer institute June 29 in Olympia. The day after, on June 30, Reach Higher will convene a college and career readiness event. You can register for either event at the Washington School Counselor Association site under meetings and events at <http://www.wa-schoolcounselor.org/> Learn more about Reach Higher at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/reach-higher>.

SNOHOMISH TEENS GET HANDS ON EXPERIENCE AS PART OF "TRADE UP"

Snohomish County teens got a taste of the trades and what it's like to drive a truck, test a wire, operate a jack hammer, and more as part of "Trade Up!" Workforce Snohomish partnered with the Snohomish County Labor

Council and United Way of Snohomish County to bring the event to Arlington Municipal Airport and Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center. Catch the video of what they got to see and do at:

<http://www.workforcesnohomish.org/advance/tradeup/> (Scroll down the page to see the video.)

April 28, 2016

NEW WEB PORTAL OPEN FOR COMMENTING ON LOCAL WORKFORCE PLANS

Washington's 12 Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) are developing draft regional workforce plans for public review and comment. The plans focus on boosting the skill levels of the local workforce, increasing employment and earnings, and raising customer satisfaction for both jobseekers and businesses, among other goals. The Workforce Board created a webpage with links to local plans, local plan guidelines, contact info for each WDC, and a timeline about the planning process including public comment dates at

<http://wtb.wa.gov/LocalWorkforcePlans.asp>

AEROSPACE SURVEY ASKS FOR FEEDBACK ON EXPANDING SUPPLY OF SKILLED WORKERS

The Workforce Board, working with several partners, including the Aerospace Futures Alliance, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance, has launched a 2016 Aerospace Skills Survey. The survey, now in its fourth year, invites input from aerospace and advanced manufacturing employers on hiring trends, skill gaps, demand for selected occupations, and education and training needs. Take the survey and read previous survey results: <http://wtb.wa.gov/aerospace.asp>

OSPI SECURES GRANT TO IMPROVE CAREER PREP FOR YOUTH

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction was awarded a \$100,000 "New Skills for Youth" grant earlier this month with the ultimate goal of increasing career pathway opportunities for all students, especially those from underrepresented populations. The grant will help the state create a detailed career readiness plan with a focus on hands-on experiences. The grant's first phase will assess Washington's career preparation system and develop an action plan. More: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Communications/pressreleases2016/Grant-ImproveCareerPrep.aspx>

COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES CAN APPLY FOR STACKABLE CREDENTIAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The U.S. Department of Education and several other education-focused agencies have launched a new initiative dubbed "Mapping Upward." Over the course of a year, selected networks made up of two to four colleges, will receive customized virtual and face-to-face technical assistance to advance efforts in stackable credential design, including employer engagement, industry certification alignment, credit transfer agreements, and more.

An informational webinar is slated for May 3 and applications are due May 18. More:

<http://cte.ed.gov/initiatives/community-college-stackable-credentials>

REGISTER FOR 11th ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION BEST PRACTICES SUMMIT IN TACOMA

The Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy, a Centralia College partnership, and the Construction Center of Excellence, housed at Renton Technical College, are hosting a summit May 18-19 at Bates Technical College in Tacoma. More info on the summit and how to register:

<http://cleanenergyexcellence.org/register-now-11th-annual-energy-construction-best-practices-summit/>

April 13, 2016

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS NEXT WEEK AT SEATTLE FILM INSTITUTE

The Workforce Board will meet at the Seattle Film Institute on Wednesday, April 20 to discuss implementing the state's new strategic plan for workforce development, "Talent and Prosperity for All," also known as TAP.

Also on the agenda is a policy discussion centered on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Get more details: <http://wtb.wa.gov/April20agenda.asp>

NORTHWEST WORKFORCE COUNCIL HOSTS PUBLIC FORUM IN MOUNT VERNON ON FRIDAY

The Northwest Workforce Council is gathering input for local workforce planning that supports local and regional businesses and provides pathways to economic success for workers. The council is hosting a public forum this Friday, April 15, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at WorkSource Skagit in Mount Vernon. Local workforce plans are expected to be approved by the Governor and ready for implementation in July. Get more info at <http://www.nwboard.org/>.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY EXPO CONNECTS TECH AND STUDENTS

The Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce will bring together business, technology, and 500 students from area schools at a Digital Technology Expo, April 28, at the downtown Vancouver Hilton. The event includes a demonstration stage for business owners and others to learn about and try out technologies. Marketing experts with the Portland Trailblazers are among featured speakers at a luncheon panel discussion on how to better engage the community with digital technology. More at: <http://www.vancouverusa.com/digital-technology-expo-luncheon>

SCREENING OF AWARD-WINNING FILM PART OF APRIL 22 EVERGREEN PRESIDENT'S INAUGURATION

An award-winning documentary that explores the roots of the U.S. education system and offers an alternative to rote learning and bell schedules will be shown April 22 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on The Evergreen State College campus in Olympia. It's open to the public. The film, "Most Likely to Succeed," focuses on High Tech High in San Diego, and project-based, collaborative learning that connects students to today's workplaces. The film's executive producer Ted Dintersmith will be part of a panel discussion following the film at 8 p.m. It's one event at Evergreen's inauguration ceremony and formal installation of new president George Bridges. More at: <http://www.evergreen.edu/events/inauguration/>

March 22, 2016

WASHINGTON'S WORK-BASED LEARNING POSTER WINS CONTEST

A poster highlighting employment challenges faced by Washington youth, along with proposed solutions, won first place at a National Governors Association conference last week. The Workforce Board is co-leading the effort with the Governor's Office to create a policy framework to increase work-based learning for youth ages 16-29, particularly in STEM fields. View the winning poster and find out more about the policy academy at <http://wtb.wa.gov/WorkBasedLearningPolicyAcademy.asp>.

MATTKE ELECTED TO U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FOR FIFTH TERM

Spokane Area Workforce Development Council CEO Mark Mattke was elected for a fifth term to the U.S. Conference of Mayors Workforce Development Council. Board membership provides a platform to guide program and policy development at the national level. Mattke is also a member of the Workforce Board. <http://www.uscmwdc.org/>

WASHINGTON DOT OFFERS HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION SCHOLARSHIPS

Washington's Department of Transportation encourages women, minorities, and socially and economically disadvantaged people interested in the trades to apply for scholarships that help cover the cost of training. Eligible trades include: carpenter, electrician, cement mason, painter, truck driver, iron worker, heavy equipment operator, pile driver, laborer, and heavy equipment mechanic. Applications are being accepted on an ongoing

basis until July 1, or until funds run out. More:

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/EqualOpportunity/Training/ScholarshipProgram.htm>

SAVE THE DATE: WA-ACTE SUMMER CONFERENCE SET FOR AUGUST 7-10

The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education will hold its summer conference at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane. Registration is coming soon. <http://wa-acte.org/confsummer.php>

March 11, 2016

WORKFORCE BOARD SEEKS COMMENT ON WIOA PERFORMANCE TARGETS

The Workforce Board is seeking comments on draft performance targets for core programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Performance targets include participant employment and earnings outcomes, among other criteria. Deadline to submit comments has been extended to March 21 at 5 p.m. More at: <http://wtb.wa.gov/WIOAPerformanceTargets.asp>

OSPI PRESENTS CAREER GUIDANCE AWARD TO MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS

Some 34 Washington middle and high schools recently received a Career Guidance Award of Excellence from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. These schools are home to exemplary career and college readiness programs. View the list of award winning schools at:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/CareerCollegeReadiness/CGAwards.aspx>

MORE THAN \$50 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE ON THEWASHBOARD.ORG

As many as 70 organizations representing 300 types of scholarships have listed their scholarships on www.theWashBoard.org, including more than \$50 million in student aid. This free, web-based scholarship matching clearinghouse for Washington residents is also featured in the "Pay for School" section of www.CareerBridge.wa.gov

REGISTER FOR 11th ANNUAL ENERGY AND CONSTRUCTION BEST PRACTICES SUMMIT

Learn more about initiatives underway in Washington and at the federal level, including the EPA Clean Power Plan and the state Clean Air Rule, at the 11th Annual Energy and Construction Best Practices Summit, May 18-19 at Bates Technical College in Tacoma. The summit is the work of the Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy, a Centralia College partnership, and the Construction Center for Excellence, housed at Renton Technical College. More info about the summit at <http://cleanenergyexcellence.org/> More about the state's Centers of Excellence at: <https://www.coewa.com/>

February 23, 2016

WORKFORCE BOARD TO TAKE ACTION ON STATE WORKFORCE PLAN TOMORROW

The Workforce Board meets tomorrow at 9 a.m. at the South Puget Sound Community College Lacey campus. The Board is expected to take action on approving the state's workforce plan, titled "Talent and Prosperity for All." Also on the agenda is a policy discussion on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and a presentation on business engagement metrics. More at: <http://wtb.wa.gov/February24agenda.asp>

JEANNE BENNETT OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON WDC TO CHAIR WWA

Jeanne Bennett, CEO of the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council, has been elected chair of the Washington Workforce Association for a two-year term that began January 2016. WWA is a nonprofit association of Washington's 12 Workforce Development Council chief executive officers. As chair, Bennett will work closely with other workforce board executives to coordinate the state's workforce system, which includes

multiple state agencies, community and technical colleges, public schools, community-based organizations, businesses and labor unions. <http://www.washingtonworkforce.org/>

GOVERNOR INSLEE SPOTLIGHTS WASHINGTON'S EDUCATION INITIATIVES AT NGA MEETING

At the recent National Governors Association winter quarterly meeting in Washington, D.C., Governor Inslee spoke about Washington's education initiatives, such as reduced class sizes, increasing investment in K-12 education, and lowering college tuition. The meeting was focused on the new Every Student Succeeds Act. Inslee chairs the NGA's Education and Workforce Committee. View the meeting here: <http://www.c-span.org/video/?404618-2/nga-forum-education-policy>

OSPI ANNOUNCES AWARD-WINNING CTE STUDENTS

The Career and College Readiness department at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has announced students selected as Washington Scholars in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and the winners of the Washington CTE Student Success Award. More than 45 students across the state were nominated for these awards. View the winning students at:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/Communications/pressreleases2016/AwardWinningCTEStudents.aspx>

WORKFORCE BOARD STAFF TO PRESENT AT SCHOOL COUNSELOR CONFERENCE

Workforce Board Communications Director Marina Parr will give a presentation on exploring careers and connecting students with education pathways at the upcoming March 2-4 Washington School Counselor Association Conference in SeaTac. More info about the conference at: <http://www.wa-schoolcounselor.org/content.asp?contentid=165>

February 9, 2016

NEW WORKFORCE SYSTEM POSTER AVAILABLE NOW

The Workforce Board's popular workforce system poster is freshly updated and ready to hang on a wall or cubicle. Make sure to order copies of this handy overview of Washington's workforce training system, including participant employment rates and earnings, federal and state funding totals, and a listing of administering agencies and providers. The poster is free! <http://wtb.wa.gov/WorkforceDevelopmentDirectory.asp>

NGA STAFF TO HIGHLIGHT WORK-BASED LEARNING AT HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Staff from the National Governors Association (NGA) are visiting Olympia this week and will provide an overview of the NGA's national efforts to expand work-based learning practices during a House Education Committee meeting Thursday morning. Washington is one of six states selected to participate in a grant-funded policy academy to scale up work-based learning opportunities for young people ages 16-29, with a focus on middle-skill, STEM careers. The Workforce Board was awarded a \$100,000 Policy Academy grant from the NGA to help lead this effort in Washington. More:

<http://wtb.wa.gov/WorkBasedLearningPolicyAcademy.asp>

WDC OF SEATTLE-KING COUNTY WINS WIOA TRAILBLAZER AWARD

The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County has been awarded the WIOA Trailblazer Award from the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB). The award is focused on the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). NAWB established the award to honor the board that has made the most progress in adopting changes envisioned in this far-reaching federal act. More:

http://www.nawb.org/nawb/forum/awards/wioa_trailblazer_results.asp

WORKFORCE CENTRAL AND TACOMA STAR CENTER TO HOST SPRING JOBFEST

Workforce Central is partnering with the STAR Center in Tacoma to host the third annual JobFest on April 13. It's the largest youth fair in Washington and targets jobseekers between the ages of 16 and 24. Find out more or register at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/jobfest-2016-young-adult-job-seeker-registration-ages-16-24-tickets-19883550234>

January 26, 2016

WORKFORCE LEGISLATIVE PAGES GO LIVE AS 2016 SESSION MOVES AHEAD

The Workforce Board regularly updates our legislative pages, posting legislation and committee activities of interest to the workforce development community. We also post presentations and TVW links of key meetings. <http://wtb.wa.gov/LegislativeUpdates.asp>

WIOA STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS FEBRUARY 9

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Steering Committee will meet Feb. 9 at the Association of Washington Business in Olympia to discuss policy issues, performance negotiations, and a statewide professional development plan, among other items. The agenda will be finalized soon.

<http://wtb.wa.gov/WIOAsteeringcommittee.asp>

AIR WASHINGTON CONSORTIUM SHOWS HOW SECTOR STRATEGIES, NAVIGATORS HELPED TRAIN AEROSPACE WORKERS

A new brief from the Office of Community College Research and Leadership describes how an 11-member consortium led by Spokane Community College worked together to build industry relationships, develop new courses, and add navigators at participating community and technical colleges to train more aerospace workers. The consortium, dubbed Air Washington, far exceeded original benchmarks identified in the \$20 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. The grant ran from 2011 through September 2015. Read more: <http://occr.illinois.edu/all-publications/>

DEADLINE NEARS TO APPLY FOR CAREER GUIDANCE AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is looking for schools with outstanding high standards for developing college and career readiness. Every year, the Career Guidance Award of Excellence recognizes exemplary public middle and high schools. Don't wait! The deadline to apply is Friday, January 29.

<http://www.k12.wa.us/SecondaryEducation/CareerCollegeReadiness/CGAwards.aspx>

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS WITH STEM INTERESTS

Do you work with students interested in pursuing a degree in the high-demand fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics or health care? Encourage them apply for the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship to receive up to \$22,500 in funding and additional professional development support. Applications are due February 29. For more information, visit: <https://www.waopportunityscholarship.org/New-Applicants/Overview>

January 14, 2016

TIME TO WEIGH IN ON STATE WORKFORCE PLAN

The state's plan for workforce development, newly named "Talent and Prosperity for All," is open for public comment through February 9. The Workforce Board approved the draft plan at its January 6 meeting.

Workforce practitioners, educators, policymakers, and the public are invited to provide feedback on both the strategic and operational portions of the plan. More: <http://wtb.wa.gov/WAWorkforcePlan.asp>

WORKFORCE BOARD INVITES PARTICIPATION IN WORK-BASED LEARNING POLICY ACADEMY

Washington was one of six states recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from the National Governors Association to create a policy framework to increase work-based learning for youth ages 16-29, particularly in STEM fields. The Workforce Board is leading this effort and will co-chair a "Core Team" with the Governor's Office. Core Team members include key stakeholders from business, labor, and government. A "Home Team" is also being created to serve as an advisory board. More information on this new opportunity at <http://wtb.wa.gov/WorkBasedLearningPolicyAcademy.asp>

ESD COMMISSIONER PEINECKE ASSUMES NATIONAL WORKFORCE ROLE

Employment Security Department Commissioner and Workforce Board member Dale Peinecke became president of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) earlier this month, a year ahead of schedule, after the previous president resigned part way through his term. Peinecke was elected the association's president-elect in October 2015. He has served as commissioner of ESD since January 2013. Prior to that, he spent more than 37 years in the aerospace and materials industries in a variety of executive positions. <https://www.esd.wa.gov/newsroom/news-releases>

FINANCIAL AID SEASON IN FULL SWING: GET RESOURCES NOW!

Looking for resources to help students complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)? Get tools to help students and families complete this key financial aid form, as well as the Washington Application for State Financial Aid, (WASFA). College Goal Washington is holding events throughout the state in January and February. More: <http://readysetgrad.org/educators/grad/college-goal-washington>

ANNUAL CARL PERKINS CAREER EDUCATION REPORT NOW ONLINE

The Workforce Board oversees funds from the federal Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act--a multi-million dollar grant that helps educators better prepare students for jobs requiring technical skills. View the latest report on how this money is put to use in Washington. The report was compiled with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and covers 2014-15, http://wtb.wa.gov/Policy_Fed_Perkins.asp

January 4, 2016

WORKFORCE BOARD TO TAKE ACTION ON STATE WORKFORCE PLAN ON WEDNESDAY

The Workforce Board will meet at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the American Lake Conference Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord to take action on the state's draft workforce plan, newly named "Talent and Prosperity for All." The Board will hear a series of panel presentations on the plan, which will undergo a 45-day public comment period before being submitted to the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor in March. More about the meeting and how to access the military base at: <http://wtb.wa.gov/January6agenda.asp>

NEW YEAR, NEW LABOR MARKET INFORMATION ON CAREER BRIDGE

We're ushering in 2016 on www.CareerBridge.wa.gov with new information on how much jobs pay, how fast they are growing, and the projected openings per year in Washington through 2018. This update from the state's Employment Security Department provides fresh data about hundreds of jobs. Click "View Job Trends" on the site and see for yourself!

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM OFFERED AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES OF SPOKANE

Community Colleges of Spokane is partnering with WorkSource Spokane to offer a pre-apprenticeship class called Skilled Trades Preparation starting today, January 4. The 11-week course will provide students with the basic knowledge and certifications they need to prepare for a trade-related apprenticeship. Students will also meet with representatives from 14 different construction trades. Those who complete the class will receive

certifications in OSHA-10 Construction Safety, First Aid/CPR, Flagger, and Forklift Operator.

<http://www.wdcspokane.com/news/newsletters/construction-industry-pre-apprenticeship-program-spokane-homebuilders-as/>

SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SEEKS FIRMS FOR ENGINEERING WEEK

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council in Vancouver is seeking engineering firms and companies with STEM-related jobs, including industrial engineers, structural analysts, test engineers, and more, as part of Engineering Week, Feb. 22-26. Participating businesses are asked to provide company tours and hands-on activities, and to discuss types of jobs available, including education and training requirements, salary ranges, and opportunities at their company for job shadowing, summer employment, internships and mentoring. Deadline to apply is January 21. Contact Justin McDaniels at jmcdaniels@swwdc.org or <http://www.business-after-school.org/>