

2020 Washington Workforce Development News



December 17, 2020

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS TOMORROW TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC IMPACT STRATEGIES

The Workforce Board meets (virtually) tomorrow (Friday, Dec. 18) from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and will discuss how to advance strategies that support an inclusive, equitable workforce economic recovery campaign. Meetings are open to the public. More details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

WORKFORCE BOARD YOUTH EMPLOYMENT REPORT NOW ONLINE

The Workforce Board has published a 2019-2020 Youth Employment Report that explores how the COVID-19 pandemic hampered Washington youth from securing a first-rung job or work experience generally. Trends and key patterns from employment data are identified to showcase areas to focus on when developing youth employment solutions in response to the pandemic. This report also includes an interactive dashboard to dive into more details. Check it out: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/research-reports/youth-employment/>

STATE OF INNOVATION CHALLENGE: CAN STUDENTS HELP OUR STATE?

Teachers, youth development programs, clubs, and community-based organizations are invited to connect the youth they serve with an opportunity to design solutions to the problems of today, and explore the careers of tomorrow. Launched in November, Washington middle and high school students are being asked to find a better way to get surplus food to people experiencing food insecurity, and create new ideas on how teenagers can stay mentally healthy while social distancing, among other challenges. The innovation challenge is a partnership of the Washington STEM Education Innovation Alliance, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Washington Student Achievement Council, the state's Employment Security Department, Career Connect Washington, and the Governor's Office. More: <https://www.innovationwa.org/>

WASHINGTON HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK RELEASES KEY FINDINGS

Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network, which captures key recruitment, retention, and skills issues being confronted by healthcare providers, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, has released findings from the most recent study. Fewer Washington healthcare employers are reporting problems obtaining PPE, than findings collected in the spring. However, issues that existed before the pandemic, including attracting healthcare workers to rural areas, and the need for more nursing assistants, medical assistants, and dental hygienists, have been exacerbated by the pandemic. The Sentinel Network is a collaboration of the state's Workforce Board and the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies. View findings highlights at: <http://wa.sentinelnetwork.org/findings/overview/>

November 17, 2020

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS TO ADVANCE ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGIES

The Workforce Board meets (virtually) tomorrow (Wednesday, Nov. 18) from 9 a.m. to noon and will discuss how to advance strategies outlined in the Workforce Economic Recovery Plan. The Board will also focus on newly established vision, mission, and values statements to help shape the structure and work of the Board moving forward. Several pre-meeting videos that provide more details about potential initiatives connected to the economic recovery plan are available for viewing as part of the agenda. These initiatives aim to help thousands of dislocated workers equitably re-connect to the economy and to high-demand, livable-wage careers. Get more meeting details and watch the videos at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/> Read the recovery plan at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/economic-recovery/>

FOOD SUPPORT FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS ARRIVES DURING PANDEMIC

As COVID-19 worsens hunger for college students across the United States, thousands more community and technical college students in Washington state will receive food benefits. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently approved Washington's proposal to allow low-income students in a wider range of certificate, degree, and industry-recognized programs to receive food assistance through the state's Basic Food Employment and Training Program, or BFET, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria. Previously, this support was available only to income-eligible students enrolled in vocational programs or basic skills classes. Once students qualify for food assistance and enroll in the BFET program, they receive other benefits like tuition assistance, job-search services, and financial help for basic needs like school supplies, books, child care, housing, utilities, medical bills, and clothing. More: <https://bit.ly/3ffA2F6>

CREDENTIAL ENGINE HOLDS NATIONAL CONVENING TOMORROW ON CREDENTIAL TRANSPARENCY

State policymakers and agencies have critical roles in ensuring their residents and employers have the information they need to make well-informed decisions about credentials—from badges and licenses to apprenticeships and advanced degrees. Tomorrow (Wednesday, Nov. 18) the Washington, D.C. nonprofit Credential Engine is hosting a national (virtual) convening that runs from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific Time. Learn about "State Solutions and Opportunities for a More Transparent Credential Landscape" to address the lack of clarity in, and access to, credential information needed to better navigate education and career pathways. Register now at: <https://bit.ly/3nz97XK>

NEW WORKFORCE OVERSIGHT BOARD HOLDS MEETING FRIDAY

The Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board is holding its second meeting on Friday (Nov. 20) from 1-3 p.m. Meetings are open to the public. More details coming soon at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/workforce-ed-invest-board/oversight-board-meetings/>

November 5, 2020

HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK EXTENDS SURVEY DEADLINE UNTIL FRIDAY

Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network has extended the fall survey deadline for healthcare employers until tomorrow (Friday, November 6) at midnight. Twice a year, the Sentinel Network helps capture key recruitment, retention and skills issues being confronted, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, and makes that information available to educators, policymakers, and others. Washington's Sentinel Network is a collaboration of the state's Workforce Board and the University of Washington's Center for Health Workforce Studies. Findings will be summarized the second week of December. More details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/health-workforce-council/>

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS NOVEMBER 18 TO ADVANCE ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGIES

The Workforce Board will meet (virtually) from 9 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, November 18 to discuss economic recovery strategies outlined in the Board's Workforce Economic Recovery Plan. As part of that discussion, the Board will consider two potential initiatives that aim to help thousands of dislocated workers equitably re-connect to the economy and to high-demand, livable-wage careers. More meeting details coming soon. View the Workforce Economic Recovery Plan at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/economic-recovery/>

YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP FOCUS OF NOVEMBER 17 WORKFORCE EVENT

November is national apprenticeship month! So it's fitting that the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County and JFF are holding a virtual event from 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, Nov. 17 that provides insight on how apprenticeship intersects with existing workforce development efforts and can help drive better customer outcomes for workforce boards. This convening draws on local and national examples and places a particular emphasis on youth apprenticeship as part of an economic recovery strategy. Register at: <https://bit.ly/32jLAlS>

NOVEMBER IS GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP MONTH

Governor Inslee has proclaimed November to be Global Entrepreneurship Month in Washington. The Washington Department of Commerce has created nearly 50 live and on-demand recorded events that explore how to start a new business, pivot an existing business to meet new challenges, or rebuild a closed business. Topics include sourcing capital, marketing, e-commerce, and more. There is no cost to participants. More details: <https://bit.ly/36bEkJg>

October 13, 2020

HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK OPENS FOR EMPLOYER FEEDBACK

Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network is once again ready to hear from employers around the state about their greatest health workforce needs. Twice a year, the Sentinel Network helps capture key recruitment, retention, and skills issues being confronted, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, and make that information available to educators, policymakers, and others. Washington's Sentinel Network is a collaboration of the state's Workforce Board and the University of Washington's Center for Health Workforce Studies. The current survey is open through the end of October. More details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/health-workforce-council/>

CAREER BRIDGE UPDATES FEATURED AT WEBINAR—TAKE A LOOK

The Workforce Board's nationally recognized career and education platform www.CareerBridge.wa.gov was featured at a First Tuesdays webinar for librarians and other workforce professionals earlier this month. Missed the webinar? View it now at: <https://my.nicheacademy.com/washingtonstate/course/20032>. Career Bridge launched 10 years ago and has since grown to include more than 6,500 Washington postsecondary programs—including apprenticeships—in one place. This recorded webinar also provides information about updates to the site, including the upcoming launch of a digital portfolio feature and a more mobile-friendly interface. This free site received over 6 million page views last year.

NEW FINANCIAL AID TOOL LAUNCHES THIS FALL

The Washington Student Achievement Council has launched a new online resource to help students and families navigate the often complicated world of student loans and repayment. The new Washington State Student Loan Education site provides multiple learning modules to help education consumers better understand higher education costs and considerations. <https://www.studentloaned.wa.gov/>

SMALL BUSINESS COVID-19 WEBINAR NOW OFFERED IN SPANISH

The COVID-19 pandemic has Washington small business owners asking about workplace safety and health, reopening guidelines, workers' compensation impacts, federal loan updates, and more. Now this no-cost information is being made available in a Spanish language webinar. It's the joint project of several state agencies, including Washington's Employment Security Department. The Spanish-language "COVID-19 Impact" webinar runs from 10 a.m. to noon on October 28. Get details and register: <https://bit.ly/2SO4Xhe>. More questions? Contact Rafael Colon at RColon@ESD.WA.GOV.

TOP 10 LIST SCHOLARSHIP—WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOU?

With so many awards based on grades and extracurricular activities, this unique scholarship gives you the chance to show what's truly special and different about you. Get creative, be serious, or tug at the heart strings. Whatever you do, you only have 10 reasons, so make each one count. This \$1,500 scholarship is aimed at students age 14 and older has a deadline of December 31. <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/top-ten-list-scholarship>

September 17, 2020

HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL MEETS NEXT WEEK

Washington's Health Workforce Council meets from 1-5 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 24 (via Zoom) and will hear an update from legislators about the upcoming legislative session, learn more about findings from Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network on healthcare occupation needs during the pandemic, and learn more about rural healthcare projects. The Council will also hear a behavioral health presentation. The Council is staffed by the Workforce Board. Meetings are open to the public. More: <https://bit.ly/3iCgqMb>

CAREER BRIDGE FEATURED AT FIRST TUESDAYS WEBINAR IN OCTOBER

The Workforce Board's nationally recognized career and education platform www.CareerBridge.wa.gov will be featured at a webinar for librarians and other workforce professionals from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., Tuesday, October 6. Career Bridge launched 10 years ago and has since grown to include more than 6,500 Washington postsecondary programs—including apprenticeships—in one place. This year, Google partnered with the Workforce Board to tie its Pathways program directly to the Career Bridge site. People using Google search now get job-training results directly from the site. This free online tool is also used in middle and high schools, colleges, and career centers statewide. Find out more about how to use Career Bridge by registering for the webinar: <https://bit.ly/32zg5UY>

WACTA FALL CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON REMOTE LEARNING FOR CTE STUDENTS

The Washington Association for Career and Technical Administrators is holding a virtual conference this year on October 12-13 focused on serving CTE students via distance learning and building a tool kit to support best practices. Content will be delivered through live virtual sessions, with recordings available for later review. More details: <https://wa-acte.regfox.com/wacta-fall-conference-2020>

PAVE THE WAY CONFERENCE SET FOR SEPTEMBER 24

The Washington Student Achievement Council is hosting a series of webinars focused on strategies to advance equity, increase college readiness, and broaden access to higher education in Washington. More details and registration at: <https://bit.ly/32zoU12>

August 26, 2020

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS THURSDAY TO REVIEW VISION, MISSION

The Workforce Board is holding a special meeting Thursday (Aug. 27), from 3-5 p.m., to discuss (via Zoom) a draft vision, mission, and strategies developed by a Board work group. The Board is not expected to take action on these statements, but may decide to modify them at a Board Retreat slated for the following week (Sept. 2-3). Thursday's second major agenda item is to identify Board policy areas or functions to explore at the retreat as potential recommendation considerations. All Board meetings, including Board Retreat, are open to the public. Details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

NEW REPORT SHOWS HALF-MILLION CHILDREN WITHOUT ACCESS TO LICENSED CHILDCARE

Before the pandemic, over half-a-million children in Washington did not have access to licensed child care, and nearly one in five parents surveyed turned down a job offer or promotion due to child care issues, according to a detailed Child Care Industry Assessment Report released by the state's Department of Commerce this week. The assessment includes an important analysis of the current state during the pandemic, and how the industry has changed since the beginning of 2020. Commerce acted as co-convenor of the task force study with the Department of Children, Youth and Families. Read the report: <https://bit.ly/32uXzvt>

WA HEALTH WORKFORCE CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED

Health workforce challenges and solutions are highlighted in a preview section of the forthcoming Washington State Primary Care Needs Assessment, an overview of primary care capacity in Washington. This section includes a shout out to the Health Workforce Council, which brings attention to current and projected workforce shortages in healthcare occupations, and proposes strategies to address these issues. The Council is staffed by the Workforce Board. Read the preview: <https://bit.ly/31uNyPJ>

SPEAKING OF THE HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL...

Save the date for the Council's September 24 meeting. Details coming soon! Read more about the Council's work: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/health-workforce-council/>

August 11, 2020

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS AUGUST 13 TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE & ROLE

The Workforce Board is holding a (virtual) board meeting from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, and is expected to discuss results from a broadly distributed "360-degree review" survey that seeks input on the Board's performance and role. The Board will also hear from representatives from Microsoft and the Washington Workforce Association about the Microsoft 25 Million Workers Project. This meeting is being live-streamed by TVW. More details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

SPOKANE WORKFORCE COUNCIL RECEIVES NATIONAL TRAILBLAZER AWARD

The Spokane Workforce Council was presented with the 2020 WIOA Trailblazer Award by the National Association of Workforce Boards in July. The WIOA Trailblazer Award recognizes a local workforce development board that's been a leader in adopting the system changes envisioned in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (WIOA). NAWB represents approximately 550 Workforce Development Boards nationwide and recognizes only one local council for achieving excellence in the workforce development industry each year. More details: <https://bit.ly/3iEyzbZ>

NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION: PREPARE FUTURE WORKFORCE NOW

As COVID-19 disrupts the American workforce, the National Governors Association issued findings of a comprehensive two-year project examining ways governors and other state policymakers can nurture a tech-resilient workforce in an evolving economy. The guide is available online and via a first-of-its-kind interactive website where users can explore 150 policy and program examples from more than 40 states; in-depth case studies from Alabama, Arkansas and our own Washington state; and global initiatives that promote lifelong learning and that train and credential an evolving workforce. More: <https://bit.ly/2DDYtO2>

JOIN OCTOBER 8 WEBINAR ON RACIAL EQUITY AND EDUCATION

Inequity in the state's education system has been highlighted by the COVID-19 crisis, with not every student having the same access to online learning or at-home support. Join a free statewide webinar sponsored by the League of Education Voters, which features Dr. Benjamin Danielson, director of Odessa Brown Children's Clinic in Seattle, exploring the role of racial equity, diversity, access, and inclusion in Washington's public education system. Then, participate in break-out groups to discuss the issue with others. More: <https://bit.ly/3gN5c6x>

SHOUT IT OUT SCHOLARSHIP: WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY TO EVERYBODY?

The Shout it Out Scholarship asks for just 250 words, or less, addressing the pressing question: "If you could say ONE thing to the entire world at once, what would it be and why?" The winning entry is worth \$1,500. What have you got to say? Application deadline is September 30. More: <https://bit.ly/3abDrSA>

July 7, 2020

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS WEDNESDAY JULY 8 TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The Workforce Board is holding a (virtual) board meeting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday, and is expected to take action on several recommendations to help the workforce system respond to COVID-19 and aid in an inclusive economic recovery that ensures all populations succeed. The Board will also hear preliminary results from a broadly distributed "360-degree review" survey that seeks input on the Board's performance and role. This meeting is being live-streamed by TVW. More details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

WA HEALTH WORKFORCE SENTINEL NETWORK RELEASES NEW FINDINGS

The latest findings from the Washington Health Workforce Sentinel Network are now available at www.sentinelnetwork.org. Comments from Washington healthcare providers describing their response to the coronavirus pandemic, including Rapid Response Reports, can be found on a new COVID-19 findings page at: <https://bit.ly/2VWa6pI>. Responses to the workforce demand questions can be found on the updated [Sentinel Network dashboards](#). The Sentinel Network has been collecting timely health workforce information since 2016, and is a joint project of the Workforce Board and the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies.

WORKFORCE CENTRAL IN TACOMA NAMES NEW CEO

The WorkForce Central Executive Board has chosen Katie Condit as the new Chief Executive Officer for WorkForce Central. She began her new role on Monday, July 6. Condit succeeds the previous longtime CEO Linda Nguyen and Interim CEO Helen McGovern-Pilant. Most recently, Condit served as Executive Director for Better Together Central Oregon and has served as a member of several Boards including Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council, Central Oregon Latino Partnership Program, and Central Oregon STEM Hub. While much of her work has been out of state, Condit has a connection to Pierce County as a graduate of University of Puget Sound in Tacoma. <https://bit.ly/2AI4QOY>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LAUNCHES \$600K "RURAL TECH" COMPETITION

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced a challenge to advance high-quality technology instruction in rural communities. The Rural Tech Project, with a total cash prize pool of \$600,000, invites high schools and local educational agencies to develop competency-based distance learning programs that enable students to master skills at their own pace with the goal of preparing them for the well-paying, in-demand jobs of today and tomorrow. Amid the coronavirus pandemic, schools across the country have grappled with how to continue to educate students who are not physically in a classroom. Rural high schools and local educational agencies interested in entering the challenge have until October 8 to submit a proposal. To learn more, rural high schools and local educational agencies can join a virtual information session on July 21 at <https://bit.ly/3iAIPtN>. More details: <https://bit.ly/2O4roMJ>

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO AWARD UP TO \$100K TO EXPAND CHILD CARE CAPACITY

The Washington State Department of Commerce is soliciting applications to support local partnerships to develop action plans that stabilize and expand child care capacity in communities. Grant funds will prioritize projects that expand capacity of and access to child care programs that serve: Underserved areas (where access is very limited) and historically marginalized communities and families. Awards are expected to be up to \$100,000. Deadline to submit an application is July 13. <https://bit.ly/2VVQuBY>

June 9, 2020

WORKFORCE BOARD TO HOLD SPECIAL JUNE 22 MEETING RELATED TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The Workforce Board is holding a (virtual) board meeting from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday, June 22. Board members are expected to take action on several policy recommendations focused on the workforce system's response to COVID-19 and economic recovery. More details coming soon! <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

MICROSOFT & LINKEDIN TO HOLD THURSDAY WEBCAST ON EXPANDING DIGITAL SKILLS AS ECONOMY CHANGES

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an economic crisis, putting millions of people out of work. As economies start to reopen, the jobs people held in February may no longer exist. Microsoft and LinkedIn are hosting a global webcast this Thursday, June 11 that starts at 8 a.m. featuring the two companies' CEOs and other leaders as they discuss how to help workers develop digital technology skills, wherever they are starting from, to ensure an inclusive economic recovery. Webcast info: <https://aka.ms/Skills>

COVID-19 WEBINARS PROVIDE WA SMALL BUSINESSES WITH INFORMATION ON RESOURCES, REGULATIONS

The state's Employment Security Department and other partners are holding a series of webinars throughout June and July to help the state's small business owners learn more about resources and regulations related to the COVID-19 crisis, including steps to take in re-opening. Webinars include an "open mic" time for participants to ask questions. Select from a range of time and dates, and register, at: <https://bit.ly/37f938k>

RETAIN WASHINGTON SEEKS INJURED WORKERS FOR RESEARCH STUDY

A return-to-work program in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, is making support available to help injured workers receive the health and wellness assistance and employment resources they need to continue working. RETAIN Washington's program focuses on early coordination of services for injured or ill individuals. The organization is recruiting up to 250 candidates through September 30 of this year to participate in a pilot research study that measures whether certain interventions, including case management, can help those with injuries or disabilities stay on the job or return to work. The program is targeted at those who were NOT injured on the job and are not receiving disability benefits through Social Security. More information: www.retainwa.org

WA HEALTH WORKFORCE DATA SHOW INITIAL UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS MAY HAVE PEAKED

The University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies has been tracking initial unemployment claims in Washington on a weekly basis using data from the Washington State Employment Security Department and with the support of the state's Workforce Board. The analysis to date suggests we have passed the peak of initial healthcare unemployment claims, with large job loss among oral health workers given that most dental clinics closed due to shelter-in-place orders. The Workforce Board staffs the state's Health Workforce Council, which works closely with the UW Center for Health Workforce Studies to address challenges facing our state's health workforce. Find out more about the Health Workforce Council at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/health-workforce-council/>

May 19, 2020

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS TOMORROW TO DISCUSS POLICIES RELATED TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

The Workforce Board is holding a (virtual) board meeting from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., tomorrow (Wednesday), May 20 to review policy briefs related to the system's response to the COVID-19 crisis and create a vision or set of goals for the state's workforce development system to support economic recovery. <https://bit.ly/2ZhTmvc>

WORKFORCE BOARD SEEKS COMMENT ON WIOA WAGNER-PEYSER TARGETS BY FRIDAY

The Workforce Board is seeking comments on draft performance targets for Title III programs as part of Wagner-Peyser (labor exchange) under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). This is the second set of targets that have been put out for public comment in recent weeks. The first targets were focused on Title I programs for Adults, Dislocated Workers and Youth. Performance target measures include participant employment and earnings outcomes, credential attainment and measurable skill gain. Deadline to submit comments is Friday, May 22 at noon. View proposed performance targets at: <https://bit.ly/2LESQQ7>

DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND RELEASES FINAL CASES FROM WAIT LIST

The Department of Services for the Blind has been able to release all cases off the Order of Selection wait list, and have opened all categories for immediate vocational rehabilitation services for all individuals who apply and are eligible. This is a major milestone. It's the first time since October 2018 the agency has been able to serve all who are eligible without delay. The agency is also pleased to open up all categories of the wait list at this time. However, Order of Selection will continue to remain in place as a tool to manage future fiscal challenges. More: <https://dsb.wa.gov/>

DO-OVER SCHOLARSHIP: A GREAT CHANCE TO EARN A SECOND CHANCE!

Mistakes – we've all made them. Too bad life doesn't always give you a mulligan. Or does it? What if you had the chance to "do-over" a moment in your life? What would it be? How would it affect you and your future? This \$1,500 scholarship aimed at students age 13 and over has a 250-word limit. Deadline is June 30. <https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/do-over-scholarship>

April 30, 2020

WORKFORCE BOARD HOLDS SPECIAL MEETING MAY 12

The Workforce Board will hold a special (virtual) board meeting from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, May 12 to review policy briefs related to the system's response to the COVID-19 crisis and the economic recovery process. More details coming soon. <https://bit.ly/2SndUy5>

WORKFORCE BOARD SEEKS YOUR INPUT AS PART OF "360" REVIEW

Gov. Inslee provided funds to support a "360" review of the Board. We are seeking input from as broad a group of workforce system stakeholders as possible. We would appreciate it if you would complete a 20-minute survey. It's designed so respondents can skip questions or answer "don't know" if there are parts of the system with which they are less familiar. We have hired Clarity Consulting to lead this effort. They will provide an independent analysis of the survey results back to us. Your individual response will be anonymous. The Board will review the information from the survey and other elements of the 360 assessment, and then identify recommendations on changes to the Governor's Office this fall. Take the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WFBSurvey>

WORKFORCE BOARD SEEKS COMMENT ON WIOA PERFORMANCE TARGETS

The Workforce Board is seeking comments on draft performance targets for Title I programs for Adults, Dislocated Workers, and Youth under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Performance targets include participant employment and earnings outcomes, credential attainment and measurable skill gain. Deadline to submit comments is Friday, May 8 at 5 p.m. Details and proposed performance targets at: <https://bit.ly/35jlori>

WASHINGTON'S FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION RESULTS IN \$12M FOR DISLOCATED WORKERS

Washington has been awarded a \$12 million Dislocated Worker Disaster Recovery Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor. This grant category, used most often for areas struck by natural disasters, focuses on

preparing and placing dislocated workers into “disaster clean-up and mitigation” jobs, but also allows for investments in longer-term education and training to prepare workers for more stable post-disaster employment. The state application, filed by the Employment Security Department, and developed in partnership with the state’s 12 local Workforce Development Councils and the Workforce Board, requested close to \$54 million to help retrain dislocated workers for occupations that will be in-demand during the pandemic recovery. Partners are currently working on revising the project implementation within the new budget parameters.

CAREER CONNECT WASHINGTON TO CONNECT STUDENTS & EMPLOYERS

Career Connect Washington will be launching a new initiative in May that connects students in grades 7-12 with Washington employers to learn about career opportunities in our state. The initiative, dubbed CareerConnect@Home kicks off May 4. The plan is to livestream a conversation with a different employer every weekday in May at 3:30 p.m. Employers will talk about their career, their industry, their skills and challenges, and answer questions from middle and high school students. Join the next session at:

<https://www.careerconnectathome.org/>

April 13, 2020

WORKFORCE BOARD TO DISCUSS SYSTEM RESPONSE TO COVID CRISIS ON WEDNESDAY

The Workforce Board will hear from partners Wednesday (April 15) from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on how Washington’s workforce system is responding to and preparing for recovery from the COVID-19 public health crisis, which has shuttered businesses and caused an unparalleled surge in unemployment. The Board will also discuss policy ideas to address the crisis, both in the short term and long term. This will be a virtual-only meeting and will be live-streamed by TVW. Agenda and call-in details: <https://bit.ly/2XpBb63>

APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS FOR CTE SCHOLARSHIP

Students can get needed financial support to pursue a trade, healthcare career, or STEM associate degree, certificate, or apprenticeship program at one of Washington’s 34 community and technical colleges. The Washington State Opportunity Scholarship application period for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs opened on April 6. The scholarship provides up to \$1,500 each quarter for students pursuing one of hundreds of eligible programs that prepare them for a wide range of in-demand careers, including carpenters, medical technicians, information technology, and more. More details: <https://bit.ly/2XpG3YT>

WA STATE TEACHERS OF THE YEAR DISCUSS EDUCATION DURING COVID CRISIS

With schools closed until the end of the school year and parents thrust into the role of homeschooling their kids, some of the state’s top teachers will share what they’re hearing from students, parents, and colleagues in their community as part of a webinar, Tuesday (April 14) at 3:30 p.m., hosted by the League of Education Voters. Featured teachers include Amy Campbell, Robert Hand, Mandy Manning, Camille Jones, and Lyon Terry. Their focus will be on equitable, continuous learning. More details: <https://bit.ly/3aXvz72>

HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK NOW OPEN AND INCLUDES NEW COVID-19 QUESTIONS

With the challenges facing health providers in meeting the COVID-19 crisis, and limitations on time, the Health Workforce Sentinel Network now includes a short set of questions on the impacts of the coronavirus. Providers are encouraged to answer these four questions to inform immediate policy and funding needs. Washington’s Health Workforce Sentinel Network opens periodically for healthcare providers to offer on-the-ground insight on workforce issues in all regions of the state. The Sentinel Network is a collaboration of Washington’s Workforce Board and the University of Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies. More details:

<https://bit.ly/3c9GYRm>

April 2, 2020

WORKFORCE BOARD TO DISCUSS SYSTEM RESPONSE TO COVID CRISIS

The Workforce Board will hear from partners at an April 15 meeting on how Washington's workforce system is responding to the COVID-19 public health crisis, which has shuttered businesses and caused an unparalleled surge in unemployment. The Board will also discuss policy ideas to address the crisis, and economic recovery from it. This will be a virtual-only meeting. More details coming soon.

SIGN UP FOR COVID ACTION ALERTS FROM EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

Sign up for action alerts from the state's Employment Security Department to get answers to frequently asked questions from both workers and employers, learn more about the federal stimulus package CARES Act, and stay up to date with other COVID-related info at <https://esd.wa.gov/newsroom/covid-19>. ESD Commissioner Suzi LeVine also shares via video how the federal stimulus package applies to unemployed Washington residents at: <https://tinyurl.com/uxs78lw>

STATE LAUNCHES CORONAVIRUS WEB PORTAL

Help spread the word about the state's new coronavirus web portal. The portal provides a wide range of information, resources, and guidance for both workers and employers. Check it out: <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>

PUBLIC HEARING ON WASHINGTON COLLEGE GRANT INCLUDES APPRENTICESHIP

The 2019 Legislature expanded a long-standing college financial aid program—the Washington College Grant (formerly known as the State Need Grant). The grant is now able to support participants of registered apprenticeship programs. The Washington Student Achievement Council will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 7 at 2 p.m. to receive comments regarding this and other proposed rule changes governing the state financial aid program. Virtual meeting at: <https://bit.ly/2yv7UfN>. Written comments: wcgwac@wsac.wa.gov.

SCHOLARSHIP: WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE NUMBER FIVE?

One is the loneliest number. Three is a crowd. Then there is five. What's so special about five? Well, for starters, this lucky number could help you—or a student you know—win a \$1,500 postsecondary scholarship. In 250 words or less submit a response to the question: "May is the fifth month of the year. Write a letter to the number five explaining why five is important. Be serious or be funny. Either way, here's a high five to you for being original." <https://tinyurl.com/onekub7>

March 10, 2020

WORKFORCE BOARD TO CONSIDER TAP PLAN APPROVAL AT WEDNESDAY MEETING

The Workforce Board will consider approving the updated version of the state's strategic workforce plan, "Talent and Prosperity for All" (TAP) as part of a regularly scheduled meeting Wednesday, March 11, in Lacey. This updated version of TAP reflects the Board's direction to "stay the course" on strategic priorities and the plan's underlying goals, while the Board examines its role and priorities within the state's workforce system over the coming year in its 360-degree evaluation. Get more meeting details and an agenda at: <https://bit.ly/2IEcREF>

WSAC LAUNCHES OTTERBOT TO HELP WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WITH FINANCIAL AID

The Washington Student Achievement Council has unveiled a new texting service to help Washington high school seniors navigate financial aid for college and career education. Students can access Otterbot via text message 24 hours a day, seven days a week by texting "Hi Otter" to 360-928-7281. After signing up, students will receive periodic messages with financial aid information, resources, and deadlines.

<https://wsac.wa.gov/otterbot>

HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL TO MEET MARCH 27

The Health Workforce Council, staffed by the Workforce Board, is set to meet Friday, March 27 from 9 a.m. to noon in Olympia. The Council addresses current and projected workforce shortages in healthcare occupations and proposes strategies to address them. Meeting details coming soon. The agenda will include an update on health workforce legislative items of interest. More: <https://bit.ly/38AWKIZ>

ANEW HOLDS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SUMMIT IN TACOMA ON APRIL 1

ANEW, a pre-apprenticeship program dedicated to the advancement of women in career pathways such as construction and manufacturing, is holding a summit at the Tacoma Convention Center focused on how to recruit and retain skilled and diverse workers and create inclusive job sites where all are welcome. Register and get more details at: <https://anewaop.org/anew-2020-inclusion-summit/>

NOT TOO LATE TO ORDER A WORKFORCE SYSTEM POSTER

The Workforce Board's popular workforce system poster, often referred to as "America's favorite matrix," is still available, in limited quantities. Make sure to order copies of this handy overview of the programs that make up Washington's workforce training system, including participant employment rates and earnings, federal and state funding totals, and a listing of administering agencies and providers. <https://bit.ly/2TzVX0r>

February 13, 2020

PERKINS "LISTEN AND LEARN" TOUR VISITS VANCOUVER

The Workforce Board, along with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, is holding a series of "Listen and Learn" tours as part of the new Perkins V state plan. Roundtable discussions focus on topics such as how to better engage employers with career and technical education (CTE) programs, how to meet the needs of special populations, and how to address challenges of providing Programs of Study in rural communities, among other topics. A final forum is slated for Feb. 21 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Clark College in Vancouver. <https://bit.ly/39v5AT3>

NEW FAFSA COMPLETION DASHBOARD LAUNCHES IN WASHINGTON

The Washington Student Achievement Council has unveiled a new data dashboard to help schools and communities track how many students are applying for financial aid. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the form students need to fill out to get any financial aid from the federal government to help pay for college. It also helps states determine which students get financial aid, and how much they'll get. Despite the promise of financial aid, communities across Washington are leaving money on the table. Only around half of Washington's high school seniors apply for financial aid, placing our state 49th in the nation. The new dashboard includes real-time data on state and school district FAFSA completion metrics. Check it out: <https://wsac.wa.gov/fafsa-completion>

GOOGLE PATHWAYS-CAREER BRIDGE PROJECT: FIND OUT MORE

The Workforce Board has teamed up with Google to help more Washington jobseekers connect with education and training programs. The concept is that when people use Google to search for jobs in their local area, they also receive information about education and training programs through Career Bridge. The Workforce Board provided Google with data from www.CareerBridge.wa.gov to populate the education and training search results, and show the performance of the programs, including employment and earnings data of recent graduates. Angela Crocker from Google shared details about this groundbreaking project at a January Workforce Board meeting. View the archived webinar, including slide deck, at: <https://bit.ly/2OSteBg>

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR EMPOWER WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE MARCH 8-9

The annual EMPOWER Women's Leadership Conference will be held March 8-9 in Ridgefield, bringing together women in the trades to celebrate their success as leaders and inspire others. Women and men are invited to attend the conference to encourage more women to become leaders, and recruit more women into these career opportunities. The conference is presented by the Construction Center of Excellence, based at Renton Technical College, and the Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing and Technology, based at Skagit Valley College. Details: <https://bit.ly/2Sohylr>

2020 ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM SET FOR PASCO ON APRIL 14

The Workforce Board is partnering with the state's Employment Security Department on the 2020 Economic Symposium to be held April 14 in Pasco. Register by Feb. 29 to receive a 10 percent discount on any full-day symposium registration. This event brings together statewide and community leaders to discuss key economic and workforce development issues that impact both the eastern side of the state, as well as all of Washington. <https://bit.ly/2SGaeHk>

January 24, 2020

GOOGLE PATHWAYS WEBINAR FEATURED AT JANUARY 29 BOARD MEETING

Google Pathways representatives will talk at the Workforce Board's January 29 meeting about a pilot project in Washington to better connect jobseekers with training programs. Can't attend the Board meeting in person? No problem. This presentation will also be a webinar that runs from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. More details at: <https://bit.ly/37vtyNK> The Workforce Board provided Google with data from Career Bridge to populate search results, which show occupation information on how much jobs pay, and where to get nearby education and training. When users click a link to show more information about the program, they're directed to Career Bridge's "Education Details" pages. More Board meeting details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

PERKINS COMMENT PERIOD ON PERFORMANCE TARGETS OPEN THROUGH FEBRUARY 7

The Workforce Board is collecting feedback on performance targets as part of the new Perkins V state plan. Performance targets are set for both the secondary (high school and middle school) level and postsecondary level for career and technical education (CTE). The Workforce Board oversees funds through the federal Carl D. Perkins Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. This multi-million dollar federal grant helps educators better prepare students for the workplace through hands-on, career-focused teaching and other strategies. More details: <https://bit.ly/37noHhi>

PERKINS LISTEN AND LEARN TOURS SLATED FOR FEBRUARY

The Workforce Board, along with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, is holding a series of "Listen and Learn" tours as part of the new Perkins V state plan. Roundtable discussions will focus on topics such as how to better engage employers with career and technical education (CTE) programs at the high school and college level, how to meet the needs of special populations, and how to address challenges of providing Programs of Study in rural communities, among other topics. Upcoming forums are slated for Feb. 10 in Auburn, Feb. 12 in Spokane, and Feb. 21 in Vancouver. More details at: <https://bit.ly/38GuGy9>

WASHINGTON WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION INKS NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

Local Workforce Development Council executives, who are part of the Washington Workforce Association (WWA), have memorialized their commitment to a strong and effective workforce system with the state's Employment Security Department. The WWA and ESD will meet regularly to discuss guiding principles, future

goals, and how to further strengthen the agreement. View the agreement at:

<http://washingtonworkforce.org/agreement.html>

SAVE THE DATE: NORTHWEST HEALTH CAREER PATH SUMMIT IN YAKIMA ON APRIL 3

This annual event is targeted at professionals in the health career pathway system to clarify and align initiatives and resources for underrepresented community members and students in healthcare. This year's event is at Yakima Valley College on April 3. <https://bit.ly/2Roji43>

January 9, 2020

GOOGLE PATHWAYS FEATURED AT JANUARY 29 WORKFORCE BOARD MEETING

Representatives of Google Pathways will talk about a pilot project in Washington to better connect jobseekers with training programs at the January 29 Workforce Board meeting. The Workforce Board provided Google with data from Career Bridge to populate search results, which show occupation information on how much jobs pay, and where to get nearby education and training. When users click on a link to show more information about the program, users will be sent to Career Bridge's already robust "Education Details" pages. This search feature is expected to be live soon. More details about the January meeting coming soon.

<https://bit.ly/39NtntM>

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HELMS WASHINGTON WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION

Sandra Miller recently began a new role as executive director of the Washington Workforce Association, which includes the state's 12 Workforce Development Councils. Miller's professional career spans more than 30 years in the hospitality, retail, and workforce development industries. She succeeds Kathy DiJulio, who passed away last year after retiring from the association. Read more: <http://washingtonworkforce.org/>

NEW WORKFORCE SYSTEM POSTER AVAILABLE—AND IT'S FREE!

The Workforce Board's popular workforce system poster is freshly updated and ready for 2020. Make sure to order copies of this handy overview of the programs that make up 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 often referred to as "America's favorite matrix," at least by staff in our office. It's free and perfect for cubicle and office walls. This year's poster is a "Very Brady" orange!

<https://bit.ly/2Rbru6D>

OSPI LAUNCHES NEW LOGO

It's out with the traditional schoolhouse and in with a modern yellow logo that represents multiple paths to a high school diploma. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has released a new logo for 2020 that looks a bit like a sunrise over paths representing "hopefulness and opportunity." More: <https://bit.ly/2QAe5Wn>

SWEET TWEETS: GET SOCIAL WITH US!

The Workforce Board's new website has a new social media feed. Yes, we're that kind of cool! Keep up with the latest workforce tweets by heading to the home page at www.wtb.wa.gov and follow us on Twitter @WorkforceWash.