

Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
Executive Director's Report

Meeting No. 223
November 14, 2018

1. I am pleased to announce two important promotions at the Workforce Board for two very deserving staff members. The retirement of Patrick Woods, and the impending retirement of Dave Pavelchek, has created an opportunity to create two new Leadership positions. Eric Wolf is now the Deputy Director for Policy and Programs, and Nova Gattman is the Deputy Director for External Relations. Both Eric and Nova will take on more responsibilities at the national level, while continuing to lead efforts in state. As workforce development has become a prominent issue area for policymakers at all levels, having Eric and Nova in these roles expands our capacity to be responsive to inquiries from policymakers. More importantly, we will have a stronger advocacy presence for issues of consequence to our state and our system. For internal operations, you'll recall that Vicki DeBoer expanded her role from CFO to Chief Operating Officer (COO). Vicki's unique perspective from her background as both an internal agency and state auditor has helped strengthen many of our internal operations.
2. With many recent statutory changes, and many new obligations that have been added to our portfolio, we want to make certain that the organization can continue to be as high performing and innovative as always, while being supportive of our staff. We will maintain the agency goal of being an attractive place to work for individuals who excel in our fields of practice. Therefore, we will be having an organizational retreat soon to engage all staff in an organizational structure or restructure discussion.
3. The Future of Work Task Force has had its first two of four meetings for 2018. The Task Force (TF) is limited by statute to only four meetings per year. Meetings in 2018 will culminate in a "plan of action" report, due to the legislature and Governor by December 31, 2018. By December 31, 2019, the TF will submit a set of policy recommendations that establish conditions for businesses and their workers to prosper in the new, technologically driven economy. For meetings three and four this year, we will be bringing in nationally recognized researchers on issues relevant to the future of work. Please let us know if you'd like to receive invitations to these meetings. You can also keep tabs on the TF website: <http://wtb.wa.gov/futureofwork.asp>.
4. Secondary CTE Video Project continues. You'll recall that the Workforce Board received a small grant from Advance CTE, with funds from the Siemens Foundation, to work with schools across the state to develop videos that tell the story of the value of CTE programs. We used the grant to work with the Seattle Film Institute to create two prototype videos and a "how to" guide for schools and students to make their own videos. We had a short timeframe towards the end of the 2017-18 school year to find willing film-makers. This year we have announced a competition early in the school year, which has gotten attention among teachers and students. Small cash awards, from \$150 to \$250, will be given to the top three school teams. All videos that meet the award criteria will be recognized and available for viewing on the Career Bridge website. We are building a set of CTE guidance pages and resources on the Career Bridge website, which will be enhanced by the student and employer perspectives portrayed in these videos.