

**Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board
Executive Director's Report**

Meeting No. 213
September 13, 2017

At the September 13 meeting, the Board will hear the results of work undertaken by staff since the June Board meeting. The following summarizes a number of additional key areas of work for the Workforce Board staff over the summer, as well as an important event announcement:

1. Save the dates! November 7 and 8, 2017: Working Together for a Better Workforce. The Washington Workforce Association, which represents Washington's 12 WDCs is working with a wide range of partner organizations to produce this conference at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in SeaTac. Last year's conference was a sellout event, with attendees representing the wide range of programs and services from across the state. The WWA is seeking presentation proposals (<https://goo.gl/9Xr4fZ>) or you can register at <https://goo.gl/Mpbvts>.

2. NGA Summer Workforce Development Meeting:
We had terrific representation from Washington's Workforce Board and staff at the summer meeting for State Workforce Boards in Portland, OR. Perry England and Beth Thew participated with Nova and I. Eric Wolf and Tim Probst joined us at the halfway point and stayed on for the Workforce Liaisons (WIOA Administrators) meeting the latter part of the week. There were two primary themes for the conference this year. Futurism, and more importantly, how technological changes on all fronts are affecting society and the workforce, both positively and negatively. The kick-off to this theme was a presentation by futurist and economist, Viveck Wadhwa, a professor at Stanford and MIT, and writer for the Washington Post and Wall Street Journal who has just authored a book entitled, "The Driver in the Driverless Car: How our Technology Choices will Create the Future". His presentation focused on important policy considerations and societal decision points. It was enlightening, and really quite frightening. If you'd like to learn more on Wadhwa's perspectives and research his website is <http://wadhwa.com>.

The second theme was focused on the federal-state relationship in the implementation of WIOA. Updates were provided on the administration's progress towards building the leadership of relevant federal departments, stated priorities, and deliberations going on in Congress that will impact both program policy and budget. There are few concrete details to report, but the NGA has provided a letter to the White House, outlining the state's priorities. The paper is presented as a consensus of all 50 governors, the Association of State Workforce Board Chairs, and the Association of State Workforce Liaisons. See:

<https://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/2017/1708WorkforceAssociationsPaper.pdf>

3. Gov. Inslee was named Chair of the NGA Committee on Education and the Workforce, with Gov. Daugaard of South Dakota as his vice chair. Gov. Daugaard is the current chair of the Western Governors' Association, and has made workforce development his priority for his tenure as chair. Workforce Board's Mike Brennan represented Washington at the first meeting for the initiative in Sioux Falls, S.D., which focused on industry partnership models. Mike will also participate in a second meeting in Denver this month, with a team lead by John Aultman, Senior Policy Advisor to Gov. Inslee. Governor Inslee will host the third meeting in Seattle in early November.
4. Private Career School Licensing and Veteran's Program Approval:
Staff are reviewing the potential impact of a new law which modifies veterans education benefits. The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, named for the American Legion member who wrote the initial World War II-era GI Bill, passed in August 2017. The bill is also known as the "Forever GI Bill" because it removes the timelines by which veterans must use or lose their educational benefits. However, while adding significant flexibility to the type and duration of training that is now covered by these benefits, there are also reductions to certain benefits, such as housing subsidy and dependent educational assistance. The bill does expand benefits to include active duty reservists who respond to state and federal emergencies. Also, veterans who were affected by school closures may be able to recoup and reuse their benefits to complete their educational goals. More information on the bill can be found at <http://www.military.com/education/2017/08/04/forever-gi-bill-details.html>
5. Staff have been working with Washington Student Achievement Council staff on developing a response for policymakers to the Ruckelshaus study of Washington's private school oversight structure. The two agencies are putting together a legislative proposal for the 2018 session that would increase efficiencies in school regulation, increase student protection and awareness, and improve technical support and school accountability. The proposal includes creating enhanced technological tools to streamline reporting and other functions for schools by investing in the Workforce Board's existing student data reporting system, along with creating a one-stop portal for student complaints, among other items. Nova will be sharing more about this proposal in her report to the Board on the 13th.
6. Career Connect Washington Task Force and Youth Apprenticeship Research:
Perry will be providing updates to the Board at each meeting on the progress of the Career Connect Washington Task Force, which he co-chairs with Microsoft President Brad Smith. Recently, we were asked by the Governor's office to provide staff support to the Task Force. Nova Gattman, Eric Wolf and Rebecca Reule will be assisting me with this staffing role. While there will be some new work involved, the majority of our activities will help advance the goals and objectives of the TAP plan, and will bring greater alignment between Gov. Inslee's priorities. The work also aligns directly with the NGA Policy Academy on Career-Connected Learning, which we administer with the governor's office and the Washington Student Achievement Council.

The Task Force is planning to join Governor Inslee on a delegation to Switzerland in November to learn more about their youth apprenticeship system. Suzi LeVine, the retired U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein and her husband Eric (who are

both Washington residents!) are leading the planning effort. To assist in educating the Task Force members both before and after the delegation, Washington is fortunate to have a group of individuals in the state who were able to participate in an intensive Swiss apprenticeship institute this July. The Workforce Board was represented at this summer institute by Nova, who was able to secure funding through the National Governors Association and Microsoft to attend on behalf of the Board. Washington sent a delegation of 11 people for this 10-day deep dive into the Swiss system, including site visits, lectures on vocational theory and return on investment strategies. Participants also learned from other regions and countries participating in the program. Participants represented five continents and a wide range of region/country sizes, governance structures, support for apprenticeship, and resources for implementation.

7. Make It In Washington Program is ending soon. The Make it in Washington (MiiW) will end this month after 21/2 years. This broad partnership effort has been very successful. The project targeted key employees in manufacturers across Washington's 31 rural counties to improve the participant's careers and to assist in retaining the industry in that location. This effort not only supported people, it strived to expand the economy and job opportunities in our most rural regions.

A total of 1358 MiiW-approved credits in on line courses have been sponsored for 132 student/employees by the MiiW scholarship across the three participating schools in 4 courses of study. In addition, over 250 businesses in 29 of the 31 project's rural counties have received technical assistance from either Impact Washington or the Innovate Washington Foundation that has improved business productivity and revenues.

For the education component specifically (Workforce Board's primary role): 55% of the students are at the undergraduate level at Highline, Shoreline and Washington State University, and 45% are at the graduate level (available only at Washington State University). The Undergraduate credits represent 55% of all credits taken at all three schools and 27% of the funding spent, while the Graduate credits represent 45% of all credits taken and 73% of the funding spent.

8. Year-End Close. Our new CFO, Victoria Deboer, and staff, CJ Teague, Wendy Tang and Colleen Seto, have all been working many extra hours to finalize all aspects of the fiscal year close (closed June 30, 2017). This is always a complex process because of our diversified funding portfolio (state, federal, and private), and because of our fiscal/administrative responsibilities over the Federal Carl Perkins funds, which cut across multiple state fiscal years, our two administrative partners (SPI and SBCTC), and 200+ educational institutions.
9. Workforce Training Results is now online as part of an interactive dashboard. Staff informed the Board several months ago that this project was in the works. It's now online and ready for those interested in workforce issues to view the state's largest workforce programs at a glance, getting quick facts on employment and earnings results. Want to know more about populations served and individual results? Site visitors can dive deeper into all 11 programs using Tableau data visualization software.
<http://www.wtb.wa.gov/WTRDashboard.asp>

10. Eric Wolf selected to participate in Leadership Forum. We are so pleased that Eric was selected by the Association of Washington Business Institute to participate in their leadership development program. The year-long program takes place in various locations across the state and educates participants on a broad range of policy issues that affect businesses and their communities. Talent pipeline development is among the important policy themes explored through this program.

As always, there will be time on the meeting agenda for Board members to ask for more information or clarification, or to provide comment on this report. Members should also feel free to contact me directly with any specific questions (eleni.papadakis@wtb.wa.gov, 360-709-4600).