

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

Meeting No. 215  
November 15, 2017

### **Washington Workforce Association (WWA) conference includes Upskill Backfill Initiative**

The WWA “Working Together for a Better Workforce” conference at the DoubleTree Hotel in SeaTac on November 7-8 drew a wide range of workforce professionals to learn how to better engage businesses, youth, and jobseekers and address the training and hiring needs of the workforce and business community. The WWA engaged many partner organizations, including this organization, to develop the program of presentations. Todd Green, vice president and community affairs officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, was the keynote speaker and shared findings from the Federal Reserve’s recent report, “Investing in America’s Workforce: Issues and Opportunities.” Many breakout topics tie directly to *Talent and Prosperity for All* (TAP) goals and objectives, including an overview of the Upskill-Backfill Initiative, presented by Workforce Board Program Specialist Wesley Nguyen, with a panel of UBI project staff and business partners.

### **USDOL monitoring visit to Washington complete**

US DOL Region 6 Team visited state and local entities involved in the administration and implementation of WIOA Titles I and III. The report from the monitors was quite positive, although there are a couple of administrative findings that ESD and Workforce Board staff will be working quickly to resolve. There was general support and encouragement to continue on the path of TAP, with many specific practices and innovations highlighted in the report from both the state and local levels. The list of highlights is quite long, so I won’t take up space here, but will plan on inviting US DOL Region 6 leadership to attend a future Board meeting to discuss their insights and provide an update on the federal direction regarding WIOA implementation.

### **Archived agency presentations now available online**

You can now find presentations made to the Workforce Board by administering agencies on the web. Presentations are connected to the implementation of the TAP plan. View them at: <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/AdministeringAgencyPresentations.asp>

### **Cross-TAP Implementation Team Effort to Enhance Service Integration**

The Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP) Common Intake and Integrated Service Delivery Committees pooled resources to bring on a contractor to help identify data elements needed to build a unified platform for client information sharing between and among program partners. The initial focus is on jobseeker customers, but we believe information learned through this project will aid integrated business engagement as well. In addition to the identification of customer data to be shared, our contractors will also survey front-line staff for their “wish list” toward developing an online Navigator Tool Chest. Our contractor, Community Attributes, Inc. was selected through a competitive process.

### **Adult Re-Engagement in Postsecondary Education**

Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC), with funding from Lumina Foundation, has been convening stakeholders to develop a state strategy to help adults attain postsecondary

credentials. About 1.2 million adults age 25-44 do not have a credential. About 300,000 of those have at least one year of college under their belts. About 800,000 have at least a high school diploma or equivalent. Workforce Board staff have been partnering with WSAC on this effort, providing advice on connecting with adult workers, especially entry-level or under-employed, dislocated workers, industry sectors, and the workforce system. Lt. Gov. Habib has also joined this effort, and is developing an online baccalaureate pilot project with Western Governors University. Board staff were invited to participate in his first pilot development session.

**Credential Engine launch scheduled December 7, 2017**

Credential Engine (CE), the national registry for the full spectrum of educational and occupational credentials will have its national launch in Washington, D.C. on Dec 7. The Business Roundtable will host the event, with speakers from business, labor, the higher education community, and government. As chair of the CE Board, I'll provide introductory remarks. We hope to have Washington become one of the "accelerator states" that help populate the registry and test its usability. We have been working with our system partners to develop this effort.