



Washington Workforce Development News

Dec. 7, 2021

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS DECEMBER 15 TO DISCUSS TAP PLANNING PROCESS

The state's Workforce Board will meet (virtually) Wednesday, Dec. 15 from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. to discuss the planning process for updating Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP), the state's strategic plan for workforce development. The Board will also hear more about Carl D. Perkins V planning and resetting performance targets for this key 2018 federal act aimed at strengthening career and technical education. TVW will live-stream the meeting. Get more details soon at: <https://bit.ly/3DuAABo>

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE LAUNCH WORKFORCE DATA PILOT

Washington's Centers of Excellence have partnered to develop the Workforce Data Pilot Project, which will collect, map, and produce industry demand, workforce, and economic impact data, for two occupations per industry sector, utilizing proprietary workforce and economic management tools to inform and benefit community and technical college workforce programs. College system users of the data will be surveyed at least once to collect evaluative feedback to measure effectiveness, and relevance to current and projected need, and to identify gaps in the data. The project will produce a summary report of findings, evaluation, and next steps at the end of the pilot slated for June 2022. More about the Centers: www.coewa.com.

JAN YOSHIWARA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM STATE BOARD

Jan Yoshiwara, executive director for the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges announced her plans to retire in July of next year, after 44 years in the college system, including 38 at SBCTC. Yoshiwara was appointed executive director of the State Board in 2017. The Board sets policy for the college system and allocates operating and capital funds to the state's 34 community and technical colleges. Yoshiwara is also a member of the Workforce Board. More: <https://bit.ly/3pzozFZ>

NEW DIRECTORS CHOSEN TO HELM TWO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

The Olympic Workforce Development Council, which serves Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap counties, has named William Dowling as the organization's new director. Dowling, who started this week, has spent over 23 years working in workforce and economic development and most recently served as Director of Employment and Training for the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. More details: <https://bit.ly/3pEfdZE>. The Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council has also hired a new CEO. In November, it was announced that William Westmoreland would succeed current CEO Cheryl Fambles, who is leaving the position in January. Westmoreland most recently has worked as a Senior Associate Director of Business Engagement and Community Affairs for PacMtn, which serves the five-county region of Thurston, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, and Grays Harbor counties. His career has included corporate, education, and non-profit experience and 17 years of involvement in workforce development. More: <https://bit.ly/31zMDjy>

WORKFORCE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD SUBMITS ANNUAL REPORT ON EDUCATION INVESTMENTS

The Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board has released its first annual report to the Legislature, which includes a look at the board's guiding principles and performance metrics that will serve as a filter or "scorecard" for future legislative recommendations. The board is also creating a performance dashboard that will show the impact of current legislative investments from the Workforce Education

Investment Account, which is capitalized from a surcharge on the Business & Occupation (B&O) tax paid by businesses. Read more about the board and view the report at: <https://bit.ly/3pwNzO5>

Nov. 4, 2021

WORKFORCE OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETS NEXT WEDNESDAY

The state's Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board (WEIAOB), staffed by the Workforce Board, will meet (virtually) Wednesday, Nov. 10, from 9 a.m. to noon. The Board is expected to finalize its annual report to the Legislature. The report outlines data metrics for key questions the Board is hoping to answer as part of its role in making recommendations for investments from the Workforce Education Investment Account. The account was established in state legislation to help ensure Washington students are prepared for Washington jobs. Get more details soon at: <https://bit.ly/3COexWM>

WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL TO HIGHLIGHT PATHWAYS

The Washington Student Achievement Council meets Tuesday, Nov. 9, and will discuss initiatives and partnerships designed to increase the number of Washington students pursuing college or career training. The meeting, which starts at 9 a.m., will spotlight three community initiatives finding success in helping students complete high school and enroll in college or career training: the Seattle Promise program, Graduate Tacoma, and the Chehalis Student Achievement Initiative. More meeting info: <https://bit.ly/3whPsB1>

WASHINGTON EMPLOYERS RECOGNIZED FOR HIRING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Washington's [Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment](#) hosted the 29th annual Governor's Employer Awards Program in October, recognizing employers and individuals in a virtual ceremony. Five public and private employers were honored for their exemplary work recruiting, hiring, retaining, and advancing workers with disabilities. Two individuals were recognized for their commitment and dedication to improve the lives of those with disabilities. Get more details: <https://bit.ly/3wckdr0>

ANEW CELEBRATES WOMEN IN APPRENTICESHIPS ON NOVEMBER 18

ANEW is celebrating Women in Apprenticeship Day on November 18 via a live webinar from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. entitled "Supporting Women to Success: Jobsite Culture in the Trades." The webinar is free, but registration is required. Hear from industry experts about how implementing a respectful workplace culture can support increased productivity, safety, and retention, not only for women and tradesworkers from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds, but for everyone. Register at: <https://bit.ly/3nU7A04>

GET ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT SHARED WORK EVERY WEDNESDAY

As businesses reopen and bounce back, SharedWork continues to be a good alternative to help businesses bring their employees back from unemployment with reduced hours. Through SharedWork, businesses are able to build back their team with qualified workers receiving partial unemployment benefits to replace a portion of their lost wages. The state's Employment Security Department, which administers the program, is offering a live webinar every Wednesday from 8:15 a.m. to 9 a.m. to help answer questions. Register at: <https://bit.ly/3bFAvil>

Oct. 27, 2021

HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL TO HEAR HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK UPDATES

The Health Workforce Council, staffed by the Workforce Board, meets tomorrow (Thursday), from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will listen to behavioral health and WA-STEM updates, share priorities for the upcoming legislative session, and hear updates from the Health Workforce Sentinel Network. The network is currently open for data collection. Twice a year, the Sentinel Network helps capture key recruitment, retention, and skills issues, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, and makes that information available to educators, policymakers, and others. The Sentinel Network is a collaboration of Washington's Workforce Board and the University of

Washington Center for Health Workforce Studies. Get Sentinel Network details: <https://bit.ly/3pIGqMb>. More about the Health Workforce Council meeting: <https://bit.ly/3vKPdhN>.

WHATCOM COMMUNITY COLLEGE CYBERSECURITY TRAINING CENTER RECEIVES \$7.5 MILLION GRANT

Whatcom Community College in Bellingham, home to the highly regarded National Cybersecurity Training and Education Center, has received a \$7.5 million Advanced Technological Education grant from the National Science Foundation. The grant will help the center expand cybersecurity education pathways, develop and implement leading-edge curriculum, cultivate industry engagement and career opportunities, and support faculty and leadership development in cybersecurity education. More: <https://bit.ly/3mi48g0>

TAKE PART IN TWELFTH YEAR CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL AID OUTREACH

Whether you're a workforce professional, an educator, or an interested community member, now is the time to help more students and their families connect with financial aid opportunities to fund education after high school. Get information, materials, and links to training as part of Washington's 12th Year Campaign, which provides financial aid advising to help more 12th graders complete their federal and state financial aid applications. October 1 marks the first day people can apply for financial aid for the 2022-23 school year. Washington has historically low completion rates of federal financial aid applications. Get more details on the financial aid campaign from the Washington Student Achievement Council at: <https://bit.ly/3Bb4Zna>

UPDATED OCCUPATION INFORMATION TO BOOST CAREER EXPLORATION FOR VETS

The Military Occupational Classification crosswalk has been updated by the U.S. Department of Defense and incorporated into career and education platforms aimed at transitioning veterans, including My Next Move for Veterans from the U.S. Department of Labor. The updates are intended to help veterans view a wider variety of careers that align with the particular skills and competencies gained during their military service. Take a look at: <https://www.mynextmove.org/vets/>

Oct. 11, 2021

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS WEDNESDAY TO DISCUSS POLICY IDEAS

The Workforce Board meets (virtually) this Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to discuss budget requests and policy ideas as part of a 2022 legislative agenda. Among the proposals, modernizing the online education-and-career planning platform Career Bridge, responding to equity and access challenges in IT-based careers, and better integrating service delivery as part of a next generation workforce system. Get the full agenda and meeting materials at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

HEALTH WORKFORCE SENTINEL NETWORK OPENS FOR FEEDBACK

Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network is open and 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, the Health Workforce Council, and the University of Washington's Center for Health Workforce Studies. More details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/health-workforce-council/>

2022-23 FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

October 1 marks the first day people can apply for financial aid for the 2022-23 school year. Completing a financial aid application opens up more options for the future, so please share this information with friends, family, and neighbors. This year, a family of four making up to \$102,000 can qualify for financial aid in Washington. In order to receive any state or federal financial aid, students must submit a financial aid application. But far too few students apply for financial aid in Washington, with only about half of high school

seniors filing a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) in recent years. Get more details on how to apply at the Washington Student Achievement Council's website: <https://bit.ly/3as6XEx>

REGISTER FOR CREDENTIAL ENGINE STATE CONVENING ON NOV. 30

We encourage you to register for Credential Engine's fourth annual State Convening from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, November 30. It's a (free!) virtual meeting where participants will learn how to work "Toward a More Transparent Credential Landscape Through Policy, Leadership, and Equity." Nearly one million unique credentials are available in the United States, each one representing an opportunity for people to get ahead. But a lack of necessary and timely information makes it difficult for people to find the best education and training opportunities. State policymakers and agencies can help ensure their residents have the information they need to make well-informed decisions, especially during this time of economic recovery and continued labor market uncertainty. <https://bit.ly/3mHLgq6>

CTE EDUCATORS ASKED TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Career and Technical Education (CTE) department is seeking CTE student nominations for the [U.S. Presidential Scholars Program](#) by CTE educators and directors. To nominate a student, please complete the [2022 Student Nomination Form](#) and submit via email to presidentialscholars@k12.wa.us no later than 5 p.m. on October 15. More details: <https://bit.ly/3oLof84>

Sept. 16, 2021

PRIVATE CAREER SCHOOL COVID-19 VACCINE INFO AVAILABLE

The Workforce Board has updated online information concerning vaccine and face covering mandates at the more than 300 Washington private career schools licensed and regulated by the agency. Get vaccination deadline information, sample exemption request forms, and further details at <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/private-career-schools/vaccine/>.

HELP INFORM FUTURE OF EQUITY IN WASHINGTON EDUCATOR STANDARDS

The Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) is circulating a survey to get public feedback on educator standards as part of recent legislation that calls for the agency to review and revise the state's current standards, and encourage the alignment of those standards with cultural competency, diversity, equity, and inclusion practices. The survey is open through Oct. 27 and takes about 15 minutes to complete. PESB is also convening a series of public and private listening sessions this fall. Take the [survey](#) and register to attend a [listening session](#). Input collected will be shared with a technical advisory workgroup to strengthen standards to better support community and student needs.

NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RECRUITING CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES

Washington's Health Care Authority is launching a campaign to encourage residents to consider behavioral health careers. Behavioral health includes mental health, substance use disorder prevention, and treatment and recovery support. The state needs more trained behavioral health workers to serve communities. Get more details at www.startyourpath.org. Learn more about behavioral health workforce issues, read reports, and find out how the Workforce Board is involved with this topic at: <https://bit.ly/39cZYid>

U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS HOSTS CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON COVID IMPACTS

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is hosting a free, virtual conference via WebEx from 9 a.m. to noon, Wednesday, September 29. This conference will bring together national BLS experts to discuss the effect of COVID-19 on employment, wages, prices, and production, providing some regional aspects when available. BLS Commissioner William Beach is the featured speaker. Registration is required at: <https://bit.ly/3kgNool>

REMOTE ONLINE INITIATIVE TO HELP MORE RESIDENTS WORK FROM HOME

Washington State University Extension is partnering with the AWB Institute and Utah State University Extension to offer the Remote Worker Certificate to Washington residents to prepare them to take advantage of remote work opportunities. The nine modules of the four-week course help build skills to make an effective remote worker, whether as an employee, entrepreneur, or freelancer. Some scholarships are available to eastern Washington residents living in the Avista service area. Basic computer proficiency is required. <https://extension.wsu.edu/remoteworkcertificate/>

Aug. 25, 2021

HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL DISCUSSES LONG-TERM CARE WORKFORCE ON FRIDAY

The Health Workforce Council will discuss the long-term care workforce, hear updates on Health Workforce Sentinel Network findings, and participate in a dental workforce discussion at a virtual meeting that runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday. TVW will provide live-stream coverage of the meeting. The Health Workforce Council, staffed by the Workforce Board, addresses current and projected workforce shortages in healthcare occupations and proposes strategies to address them. More: <https://bit.ly/3mxPZMr>

CAREER BRIDGE UPDATED WITH FRESH LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Wondering how fast a particular occupation is growing in our state or how much you're likely to earn if you land a job in a certain field? Get the latest labor market data on average wages, along with projected openings for hundreds of occupations in Washington, on www.CareerBridge.wa.gov. The site, created and administered by the Workforce Board, was recently updated with fresh data from the state's Employment Security Department. Click on the View Job Trends section and see which occupations are hot, and which are not.

REGISTER FOR PROFILE OF A GRADUATE LISTENING SESSION

How can Washington students show they have the skills they need to thrive after high school? A [Mastery-based Learning \(MBL\) Work Group](#) staffed by the State Board of Education is developing a Profile of a Graduate to better understand the multidisciplinary skills K-12 students should acquire by the time they graduate. The work group is hosting a series of listening sessions this summer to hear from Washington residents. A final virtual listening session is set for Sept. 8 from 5:50 to 6:30 p.m. Register or take an online survey at: <https://bit.ly/3khYIF2>

CREDENTIAL ENGINE SHOWCASES WASHINGTON SUCCESS STORY

Credential Engine, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that advocates for providing a clearer more consistent look at the wide array of available credentials, recently posted details about a successful credential publishing partnership with the Workforce Board. It's one of several success stories focused on state partnerships. The Workforce Board published 6,500 credentials from www.CareerBridge.wa.gov to Credential Engine's national registry as part of a grant project. The grant project also kickstarted the creation of the state's first ever Credential Transparency Advisory Committee to help shape a statewide vision for increasing credential transparency and navigability among Washington's secondary and postsecondary systems. More: <https://credentialengine.org/success-stories/washington/>

COME WORK WITH US!

The Workforce Board is hiring a new Program Specialist 3 within our Consumer Protection Unit. The primary purpose of the position is to carry out the contracted activities of the State Approving Agency for veterans' education and training programs. More details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/about-us/employment/>

Aug. 5, 2021

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS AUGUST 18 TO TAKE ACTION ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

The Workforce Board will consider several policy ideas to advance as part of a 2022 legislative agenda at a virtual meeting Aug. 18 that runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The proposed ideas include modernizing the Workforce Board's CareerBridge.wa.gov website to make it mobile-friendly and aligned with high school planning requirements, respond to equity and access challenges in the IT sector, and integrate service delivery and enhance incumbent worker training as part of a next generation workforce system, among other topics. More details coming soon: <https://bit.ly/3rROBoD>

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON DISABILITY ISSUES SEEKS EMPLOYER NOMINATIONS

The Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment is seeking nominations for the 2021 Washington State Governor's Employer Awards, which recognize excellence in recruiting, hiring, and advancing employees with disabilities. The awards are presented as part of national Disability Employment Awareness Month. Deadline to submit is August 31. More details: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/J33BFJ9>

WORKFORCE OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETS NEXT WEDNESDAY

The state's Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board (WEIAOB), staffed by the Workforce Board, will meet (virtually) Wednesday, Aug. 11 from 9 a.m. to noon. The Board is expected to finalize an accountability framework and dashboard at the meeting. Get more details soon at: <https://bit.ly/37iz8V9>

SMALL BUSINESS FLEX FUND PROVIDES PANDEMIC SUPPORT

The Small Business Flex Fund, supported by the state's Department of Commerce, is a new resource aimed at small businesses and nonprofits to help them gain access to flexible working capital loans, low interest rates, and repayment timelines that stretch to five years and beyond. Eligible small businesses can borrow up to \$150,000. More details: <https://smallbusinessflexfund.org/>

SEE YOU AT WA-ACTE SUMMER CONFERENCE IN SPOKANE!

Workforce Board Communications Director Marina Parr will provide a Career Bridge presentation and hand out cool (free!) education and career resources at the Workforce Board's booth as part of the Washington Association for Career and Technical Education summer conference. This year's conference is *both* onsite and online. It kicks off this Sunday in Spokane, and runs through Wednesday, Aug. 11. Stop by the booth or say "hi" virtually. More: <https://www.wa-acte.org/summer>
July 15, 2021

WORKFORCE BOARD TO CONSIDER KEY POLICY IDEAS AT FRIDAY MEETING

The Workforce Board will consider several policy ideas to advance as part of a 2022 legislative agenda at a special (virtual) meeting Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The proposed ideas include modernizing the Workforce Board's CareerBridge.wa.gov website to make it mobile-friendly and align with required High School and Beyond Plans. Other ideas include addressing equity and access challenges in the IT sector, and integrating service delivery and enhancing incumbent worker training as part of a next generation workforce system, among other topics. TVW is live streaming this meeting. More details: <https://bit.ly/3kf9Sa1>

LISTENING SESSIONS TO HELP CREATE PROFILE OF A WASHINGTON H.S. GRADUATE

How can Washington students show they have the skills they need to thrive after high school? A Mastery-based Learning (MBL) Work Group (staffed by the State Board of Education) is developing a Profile of a Graduate to better understand the multidisciplinary skills K-12 students should acquire by the time they graduate. The work group is hosting a series of listening sessions this summer to hear from Washington

residents. The first listening session is set for July 29 from noon to 1 p.m. <https://conta.cc/3xhBfUk>. Other virtual sessions are set for Aug. 10 and 12. More details: <https://bit.ly/3ekR19z>

WORKFORCE BOARD STUDENT DATA PORTAL OPENS

The Workforce Board's Student Data Portal opened earlier this month, enabling schools, colleges, and other training providers to submit student-level records through the agency's secure, encrypted portal. Workforce Board staff use this data, alongside wage records, to evaluate program performance, including employment and earnings outcomes of recent graduates. The portal is open through August 27. All private career 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. A recorded webinar provides an overview of the portal, tips for submitting data correctly, and fast ways to fix and avoid errors. More: <https://bit.ly/3elFMOb>

HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK UPDATES ONLINE DASHBOARDS

Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network has updated online dashboards following the most recent outreach to healthcare employers on their greatest workforce needs. Twice a year, the Sentinel Network helps capture key recruitment, retention, and skills issues and makes that information available to educators, policymakers, and others. The Sentinel Network's steering committee is creating policy briefs to highlight recent findings. Washington's Sentinel Network is a collaboration of the state's Workforce Board and the University of Washington's Center for Health Workforce Studies. More: <https://wa.sentinelnetwork.org/>

CREDENTIAL TRANSPARENCY GRAPHIC SHOWS PATHS TO BETTER FUTURE

Credential Engine, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit that advocates for providing a clearer more consistent look at the wide array of available credentials, has released a graphic that illustrates credential transparency. The graphic includes the different types of credentials used to prepare for a career, how technology can help catalog and organize credentials so they're more easily discovered and compared, and demonstrates that the right mix of verifiable skills and competencies can lead to clearer career paths. This summer, the Workforce Board will complete the publication of thousands of Washington education programs from CareerBridge.wa.gov to Credential Engine's national credential registry to highlight Washington's education opportunities on a national platform. Check out the graphic: <https://bit.ly/36D2Rri>

June 14, 2021

WORKFORCE BOARD LAUNCHES NEW WEB PAGES FOR RESEARCH, RESOURCES

Check out our newly designed web pages featuring the latest research and reports from Workforce Board research staff. As independent evaluators of Washington's workforce system, staff regularly collect and interpret data, and publish a variety of reports on workforce issues. All reports are free to download. <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/research-resources/>

REGISTER NOW FOR VIRTUAL 2021 ESD ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM

Washington's Employment Security Department is hosting an economic symposium, starting tomorrow, dubbed a "A Post-Pandemic Roadmap to Economic Recovery," that brings together government, private sector, non-profit, and community leaders to address key workforce and economic development challenges. This two-day, virtual conference runs June 15-16. Workforce Board staffers Lew McMurrin and Joe Wilcox will lead two separate sessions on the future of work—from new skills to new office arrangements. The Workforce Board's Executive Director Eleni Papadakis will respond to questions on Washington state recovery trends and strategies. You'll be able to access content through the end of 2021. Learn more and register: <https://esd.wa.gov/2021-symposium>

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS LAUNCHES RAPID RETRAINING PROGRAM

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a program that provides up to 12 months of tuition, fee, and monthly housing allowance payments to qualifying veterans seeking training for employment in high-demand occupations. Eligible vets include those unemployed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, among other requirements. Learn more the Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP) and eligibility details at: <https://bit.ly/3vqs7et>

FREE LINKED IN LEARNING OFFERED AT WASHINGTON LIBRARIES

Washington State Library's partnership with LinkedIn Learning provides free online training resources for Washington residents through local public libraries. LinkedIn Learning features over 10,000 courses taught by industry leaders and instructors in business and technology, covering a wide range of technical skills, soft skills, digital tools, and software titles. More details on how to use your library card to access training. <https://bit.ly/3iH0JWI>

EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT PROGRAM ENROLLMENT OPEN

Qualifying households can receive a discount of up to \$50 per month on broadband service or up to \$75 per month if on qualifying tribal lands. Students who received Pell grants in the current award year are also eligible. <https://getemergencybroadband.org/>

May 27, 2021

NEXT WEEK'S SPECIAL BOARD MEETING FEATURES "LISTEN & LEARN" SESSION

Dr. Karen Johnson, director of the newly created Office of Equity, will provide a "listen and learn" session at a special Workforce Board meeting, set for June 2 from 1 to 5 p.m. Board members will also consider extending pandemic-related flexibility provisions and begin to develop their legislative agenda for 2022. Further conversations on the legislative agenda will continue at a following meeting on June 9 and subsequent meetings throughout the summer. TVW will live stream this meeting. Details at: <https://bit.ly/33CbiSq>

REGISTER NOW FOR VIRTUAL 2021 ESD ECONOMIC SYMPOSIUM

Washington's Employment Security Department is hosting an economic symposium, dubbed a "A Post-Pandemic Roadmap to Economic Recovery," that brings together government, private sector, non-profit, and community leaders across the state to address key workforce and economic development challenges. This two-day, virtual conference runs June 15-16. Can't make it on those two days? No problem. Register for this all-virtual event and you'll be able to access content through the end of 2021. Learn more and register: <https://esd.wa.gov/2021-symposium>

HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL MEETS NEXT WEDNESDAY

Washington's Health Workforce Council will meet (virtually) Wednesday, June 2 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The council, staffed by the Workforce Board, brings attention to current and projected workforce shortages in healthcare occupations, and proposes strategies to address these issues. The Council will hear updates on the last legislative session as it relates to several priority areas. TVW will live stream this meeting. More details: <https://bit.ly/2RTld3w>

WORKFORCE TRAINING RESULTS AVAILABLE NOW

The 2021 edition, pulled together by the Workforce Board's research staff, tracks the results of 12 of our state's largest workforce programs. Find out how many participants got jobs, how much they earned, and the skills they obtained. In this newly updated dashboard, you'll also see the projected 10-year economic impact generated by each workforce program, in addition to a 10-year Return on Investment for taxpayers. The accompanying 2021 workforce system poster (in fresh shades of purple!) also provides details, at-a-glance. View the dashboards and poster at: <https://bit.ly/3fnqVUu>

ANEW HOLDS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION WEB SERIES IN JUNE

ANEW, a nonprofit that works to improve the access and advancement of women in non-traditional career pathways such as construction and manufacturing, is holding a series of virtual workshops throughout June (over four Thursdays). The webinars will be followed by an in-person summit set for July 22. This is an opportunity for professional organizations to learn how to diversify their workforce, while also finding ways to retain key employees through an inclusive workplace. More info: <https://conta.cc/3oTSRCx>

May 13, 2021

“LISTEN & LEARN” SESSION FEATURED AT SPECIAL JUNE BOARD MEETING

Dr. Karen Johnson, director of the newly created Office of Equity, will provide a “listen and learn” session at a special Workforce Board meeting, set for June 2 from 1 to 5 p.m. Board members will also consider extending pandemic-related flexibility provisions and begin to develop their legislative agenda for 2022. Further conversations on the legislative agenda will continue at a following meeting on June 9. More details coming soon at: <https://bit.ly/33CbiSq>

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT OVERSIGHT BOARD DISCUSSES ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK ON MAY 19

The state’s Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board (WEIAOB), staffed by the Workforce Board, will meet (virtually) from 9 a.m. to noon, May 19. The Board will hear legislative updates, discuss how to operate as a board, and create an accountability framework. More details coming soon at: <https://bit.ly/2Qhuvpq>

HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK EXTENDS EMPLOYER FEEDBACK DEADLINE TO MAY 23

Washington’s Health Workforce Sentinel Network is once again ready to hear from employers around the state about their greatest health workforce needs. To ensure feedback is fully captured the deadline to participate has been extended to May 23. 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, the Health Workforce Council, and the University of Washington’s Center for Health Workforce Studies. More details: <https://bit.ly/3sWmx26>

SHARED WORK CONFERENCE SET FOR JUNE 8-9

Attend the first-ever virtual conference focused on the SharedWork program, which runs from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., June 8 and 9. SharedWork allows employers to reduce employee hours by as much as 50 percent, while employees collect benefits to replace a portion of their lost wages. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, SharedWork benefits won’t affect employers’ experience rating through the week ending Sept. 4. The conference, which is free, includes sessions on the new laws and emergency rules that benefit businesses using SharedWork, along with how to calculate Unemployment Insurance taxes to protect a business experience rating. Participants can also chat one-on-one with local WorkSource business service teams to learn more about business strategies and rebound efforts in their area. Register at: <https://bit.ly/2SCUVTd>

LGBTQ AND GENDER BIAS WEBINAR SET FOR MAY 18

Faculty, deans, navigators, and counselors, along with others working in K-12, workforce, and higher education, are encouraged to attend a free, one-hour webinar set for 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., May 18. This is the fourth webinar in a series from the Washington Centers of Excellence Implicit Bias Institute and features Morgan Mentzer, a former auto mechanic, who went to law school to fight discrimination in the trades. She co-founded the Reckoning Trades Project to increase the representation and retention of LGBTQ people in the trades. Register at: <https://bit.ly/3yb6GAw>

April 26, 2021

CAREER BRIDGE SPORTS NEW HOME PAGE, CAREER VIDEOS

The Washington Career Bridge website (www.CareerBridge.wa.gov) is looking fresh these days with a brand new homepage that features oh-so-clickable icons, instead of photos. The popular, public-facing career and education portal created and managed by the Workforce Board also features new videos on hundreds of careers courtesy of the U.S. Department of Labor. So take the career quiz. Then catch a video and see if a new career might be right for you!

FINANCIAL AID NAVIGATION WEBINARS OFFERED APRIL 27 AND APRIL 29

School and college counselors, financial aid staff, and anyone who wants to learn more about and teach their community about financial aid are encouraged to attend a webinar on financial aid application navigation. Two sessions are being held, including April 27 from 10 a.m. to noon, and April 29 from 1-3 p.m. They're being offered by the Washington Student Achievement Council in partnership with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Council of Presidents, and Independent Colleges of Washington. More details and register at: <https://bit.ly/3dIV1ks>

HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK SEEKS EMPLOYER FEEDBACK THROUGH MAY 9

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, the Health Workforce Council, and the University of Washington's Center for Health Workforce Studies. More details: <https://bit.ly/3sWmx26>

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO EXPLORE HEALTHCARE CAREERS THIS WEEK

Sound Careers in Healthcare, a virtual weeklong mix of live and interactive presentations, starts this afternoon (April 26) and runs through Friday (April 30). This free event is open to all Washington 9th through 12th graders who would like to explore different health career pathways. Sessions run from 3 to 4:30 p.m. each day. Participants are not obligated to attend all sessions. Help spread the word and get more details: <https://bit.ly/2QSPheM>

WORKFORCE OVERSIGHT BOARD TO MEET MAY 19

The state's Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board (WEIAOB), staffed by the Workforce Board, will meet (virtually) May 19 from 9 a.m. to noon. The agenda is in progress. Get more details soon at: <https://bit.ly/3sMq8zC>

April 8, 2021

POPULAR WORKFORCE SYSTEM POSTER ROLLS OUT ON WEB

The Workforce Board has posted an at-a-glance Washington workforce system poster known as "America's favorite matrix" to the web. It's perfect for looking at on your home office computer or (for some lucky folks) on their office cube P.C. This year's 2021 poster is only available on the web, due to changing customer needs during COVID. Find out more about the state's largest workforce programs—who they serve, how much is spent, which agencies administer the programs, and the employment and earnings results for participants. Check it out at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/washington-workforce-system/>

HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK OPENS FRIDAY 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 starting Friday, April 9. 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. More details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/health-workforce-council/>

AMY MARTINEZ TAPPED TO LEAD SOUTH CENTRAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Amy Martinez, who most recently served as chief operating officer for the South Central Workforce Development Council, is now that organization's CEO. Martinez succeeds Jack Fitzgerald, who is headed to Kansas to serve in a new role with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Martinez started her South Central WDC career in 2002. The WDC oversees employment and training programs in a region serving Kittitas, Klickitat, Skamania, and Yakima counties. More: <https://southcentralwdc.com/>

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2021 AWB SPRING MEETING

The Association of Washington Business is holding its annual spring meeting May 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This virtual meeting provides a spring training themed day of business insights, with tips on how to hit a home run or at least round a few bases as Washington's economy recovers from COVID. Attendees can choose from several content track options. Registration is open now at: <https://bit.ly/3wEfXk7>

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION OPEN FOR SUMMER CTE CONFERENCE

Washington's Association for Career and Technical Education is hosting its annual summer conference Aug. 8-11 at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane. Early bird rates are available through June 30. Interested in presenting? The call for presentations is open through May 3. Get more details at <https://www.wa-acte.org/summer>.

March 25, 2021

WORKFORCE OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETS MONDAY, MARCH 29

The state's Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board (WEIAOB), staffed by the Workforce Board, will meet (virtually) Monday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The Board will listen to a presentation on the state of workforce and education in Washington, and will begin developing principles for future funding from the state's Workforce Education Investment account. All meetings are open to the public. More: <https://bit.ly/3v7xIHO>

CAREER AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE INFO AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

The Washington Student Achievement Council has pulled together information on postsecondary career and technical education programs, where to find these education options, financial aid opportunities, along with key online resources, including the Workforce Board's www.CareerBridge.wa.gov education and career platform. The information is part of a comprehensive effort to communicate with students and families to help them make goals for life after high school. More: <https://bit.ly/3rlmPPc>

STATE TO LAUNCH NEW ROUND OF WORKING WASHINGTON SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

Washington's Department of Commerce will open the fourth round of applications for Working Washington Grants on Monday, March 29. Businesses must apply the grant award toward expenses incurred between March 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021. Grants are aimed at for-profit small businesses in industries that had to close as a result of safety and public health measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The application portal is open through April 9. More details at: <https://commercegrants.com/>

WA CHAMBER EXECUTIVES HOST 2021 ECONOMIC FORECAST NEXT WEEK

The Washington Chamber of Commerce Executives have joined with their Oregon counterparts to host a webinar from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Thursday, April 1 focused on the health of the economy and whether businesses are ready to fully reopen once the pandemic crisis is over. Featured speakers include Curtis Dubay,

senior economist from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Jeff Tucker, senior economist with Zillow Economic Research. More details and register at: <https://bit.ly/3fbwo0l>

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR WOMEN, MINORITIES PREPARING FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION CAREERS

The Washington Department of Transportation Office of Equal Opportunity's On-the-Job Training Support Services has announced scholarship opportunities to encourage women, minorities, and other target populations to become part of the highway construction workforce in a wide range of skilled trades. Awards may be applied to tuition, books, and supplies. Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible. More: <https://wsdot.wa.gov/EqualOpportunity/scholarship.htm>

March 9, 2021

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS TOMORROW TO TAKE ACTION ON ECONOMIC IMPACT CAMPAIGN

The Workforce Board is expected to take action on a collective impact campaign at its (virtual) Wednesday meeting, which runs from 10 a.m. to noon. The campaign is intended to promote an inclusive, equitable economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board will also listen to a briefing and panel discussion on Economic Security for All, which grants money to organizations to systematically approach the problem of poverty and design measurable poverty reduction systems. More details: <https://bit.ly/3kYztCm>

REGISTER FOR MARCH 18 PAVE THE WAY FINANCIAL SUPPORTS WEBINAR

Learn how financial supports play a critical role in addressing postsecondary "basic needs" security, with a specific focus on leveraging emergency assistance grants and SNAP benefits. This Pave the Way webinar from the Washington Student Achievement Council runs from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 18, and provides an overview of postsecondary basic needs security nationally and in Washington, strategies to address current challenges, and actions to address them. Register: <https://bit.ly/3burc61>

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION RELEASES 2020 REPORT

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's service delivery and put new virtual technologies to the test in helping provide vital services to its customers. Find out how the organization celebrated its 100-year anniversary and highlighted customer success stories, while also concluding a pilot project intended to standardize and streamline elements of the eligibility determination process. Read the report: <https://bit.ly/3vfvaYf>

WORKFORCE OVERSIGHT BOARD MEETS MARCH 29

The state's Workforce Education Investment Accountability and Oversight Board, staffed by the Workforce Board, makes recommendations on workforce education priorities to fund as part of the Workforce Education Investment Act. All meetings are open to the public. More: <https://bit.ly/3v7xIHO>

SAVE THE DATE: HEALTH CAREER PATH SUMMIT APRIL 8-9

The Area Health Education Center for Western Washington is holding two half-day virtual seminars April 8-9 on "Growing a Diverse Healthcare Workforce." More details coming soon at: <https://www.ahecww.org/home-ahecww>

Feb. 17, 2021

NEW CAREER BRIDGE VIDEO PROVIDES VIRTUAL TOUR

A new video provides a virtual tour of the nationally recognized education and career platform Washington Career Bridge—showcasing everything from a career quiz to assess talents and interests to labor market data that highlights hiring and growth for occupations people are training for across Washington. The new video also shows visitors how to find employment and earnings outcomes as part of the site's "consumer report

card” for thousands of Washington postsecondary education programs. The video is available on the Workforce Board website at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/career-resources/career-bridge/>. It’s also available on the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation resource page at: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr/resources-job-seekers>. Check it out!

WORKFORCE BOARD LEGISLATIVE TRACKER HIGHLIGHTS WORKFORCE BILLS

Get the latest workforce legislation the Workforce Board is tracking this session, including bills that survived the “policy cutoff” earlier this week. Our 2021 Legislative Tracker includes bill numbers, titles, sponsors, and committee meeting information. The tracker also includes legislative presentations from Workforce Board staff recorded on TVW. See for yourself: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/about-us/workforce-board-legislative-tracker/>

GOVERNOR INSLEE DECLARES FEBRUARY CTE MONTH

Governor Inslee has issued a proclamation recognizing Career and Technical Education month in February. It recognizes CTE as “the opportunity to gain the academic, technical and employability skills necessary for true career readiness.” The proclamation also highlights challenges related to addressing skill gaps and connecting qualified professionals with careers in CTE-related fields. February is also considered CTE month nationally. View the proclamation on the Workforce Board home page at www.wtb.wa.gov.
Feb. 4, 2021

NEW HEALTH WORKFORCE REPORT HIGHLIGHTS PANDEMIC RECRUITMENT, RETENTION CHALLENGES

A new report from the Health Workforce Council highlights the unique challenges of recruiting and retaining crucial healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The council is staffed by the Workforce Board and issues an annual report to the Legislature on healthcare workforce strategies and policies that lead to sustainable, systemic solutions. More info on the Council and the report at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/health-workforce-council/>

CHECK OUT WORKFORCE BOARD 2021 LEGISLATIVE TRACKER

Get the latest workforce legislation the Workforce Board is tracking this session in one handy place. Our 2021 Legislative Tracker includes bill numbers, titles, sponsors, and committee meeting information. The tracker also includes legislative presentations from Workforce Board staff recorded on TVW. See for yourself: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/about-us/workforce-board-legislative-tracker/>

FEBRUARY IS CTE MONTH!

Yes, you heard right. This is the month to build awareness about Career and Technical Education and the hands-on, relevant, career-focused learning that helps students set education and career goals, and achieve them. Find out more about middle and high school CTE programs in Washington at: <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/career-technical-education-cte>. Find out more about community and technical college CTE at: <https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/cte-dual-credit/>

PAVE THE WAY WEBINAR FOCUSES ON HELPING UNEMPLOYED ADULT LEARNERS GO BACK TO SCHOOL

Hear from college and community stakeholders from King, Pierce, and Spokane regions to learn about new equity-focused strategies to help adult learners, facing record-high unemployment, connect with postsecondary education and training programs. This Pave the Way webinar is slated for Feb. 11 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Administered by the Washington Student Achievement Council, Pave the Way is focused on strategies to advance equity, increase college readiness, and broaden access to higher education in Washington. Space is limited, so register now: <https://bit.ly/2MVBUZe>

SAVE THE DATE FOR WORKFORCE BOARD MARCH MEETING

The Workforce Board meets March 10 for a regularly scheduled (virtual) meeting. Stay tuned for details, coming soon!

Jan. 21, 2021

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS JANUARY 27 TO DISCUSS COLLECTIVE IMPACT CAMPAIGN

The Workforce Board will meet (virtually) January 27 from 9 a.m. to noon to continue refining their collective impact initiative to bolster Washington's economic recovery efforts. This follows earlier discussions on how to advance strategies that support an inclusive, equitable workforce economic recovery campaign. Meetings are open to the public. This meeting will also be live streamed on TVW. More details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

CHECK OUT WORKFORCE BOARD 2021 INITIATIVES

It's a new year and a new Legislative session. Check out the latest reports, resources, and legislation we are tracking by clicking featured links on the Workforce Board's home page. You'll be glad you did!

More: www.wtb.wa.gov

COMMERCE INVESTS RECORD \$97 MILLION IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS

Stable housing is the foundation for financial self-sufficiency, yet even before the pandemic an estimated 129,000 Washington residents were at risk of homelessness as affordable housing hasn't kept pace with demand. The Washington State Department of Commerce announced \$97 million in grants and loans for affordable housing projects in communities across the state. These funds will help provide an estimated 1,404 multifamily rental units/beds, 121 homes for first-time homebuyers, 86 units of modular housing, and 74 units in cottage-style communities. More details: <https://bit.ly/3bZaigG>

SECOND VIRTUAL SCRUBS CAMP SET FOR FEBRUARY 20

The Eastern Washington Area Health Education Center is holding its second virtual Scrubs Camp for high school students on February 20. Typically a one-day, hands-on event to explore health careers, the Scrubs Camp has migrated to a Zoom format while keeping the hands-on learning component. Students receive kits beforehand and will spend the day exploring dental hygiene, AED and CPR, epidemiology, and a session on medicine with the WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine. To find out more and register, <https://bit.ly/3bUtH2a>

SAVE THE DATE FOR WEDA WINTER CONFERENCE IN MARCH

The Washington Economic Development Association is holding its (virtual) winter conference, dubbed Recovering Jobs and Rebuilding Communities, on March 16-17. Gain new tools and insight for economic development in your community. More about WEDA: www.wedaonline.org