



2022 Washington Workforce Development News

Dec. 7, 2022

HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL MEETS THURSDAY

The Health Workforce Council, staffed by the Workforce Board, is meeting (virtually) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8. Council members will listen to legislator priorities and hot topics for the upcoming legislative session, review the council's biennial recommendations, and discuss financial support to facilities and clinicians providing pre-graduate training, among other topics. More meeting details: <https://bit.ly/3Bf7uro>

CAREER BRIDGE FALL WORKSHOP IDENTIFIES KEY THEMES

A new report is available from the Career Bridge Design Thinking Workshop co-sponsored by RIPL (Research Improving People's Lives). It highlights five key areas for the Workforce Board to consider as the agency modernizes www.CareerBridge.wa.gov. Among these themes was the concept of meeting users where they are, by considering context, access points, and potential barriers to reach a wider range of users. RIPL helped lead a hybrid workshop in September at the Lacey Community Center to discuss Career Bridge and how to make improvements to the state's public-facing career and education platform that will boost access and provide a more satisfying user experience. More about the workshop, modernization efforts, and the report at: <https://bit.ly/3F838Dx>

STATE BROADBAND OFFICE OFFERS GRANTS TO BUILD "LAST MILE" INFRASTRUCTURE

The Washington State Broadband Office is accepting applications now through January 17, 2023 for grants of up to \$12 million each for broadband infrastructure construction projects. With \$120 million available, the grants target "unserved" areas – defined as areas lacking access to reliable wireline connection service at speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps. Washington's goal is to provide high-speed internet access for all of its residents and businesses by 2028. Eligible broadband infrastructure grant applicants include local governments (including public ports and public utility districts), federally recognized tribes, nonprofit and nonprofit cooperative organizations, and public-private entities led by a public partner. More: <https://bit.ly/3Hk1Ms3>

WORKFORCE BOARD LAUNCHES WORKFORCE BLOG

The Workforce Board has launched a new blog, "Workforce Watch," that highlights key policies, strategies, and priorities as the 2023 legislative session approaches. Already, the blog has captured legislative testimony from Workforce Board staffers Renee Fullerton and Dr. Donald Smith on healthcare workforce challenges. The blog can be found on the agency's home page www.wtb.wa.gov and our social media channels on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. The blog is the brainchild of the Workforce Board's new Communications Manager Andrew Lenderman. Welcome Andy! Read the Dec. 2 blog post: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/workforcewatch/>

Nov. 8 2022

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS NOV. 9 NEAR SEATTLE

Washington's Workforce Board is holding its first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic at the Washington Workforce Association conference near Seattle on Wednesday. The half-day meeting, which starts at 9 a.m. and runs to noon, is at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in the Evergreen Room (second floor).

Participants can also attend the meeting remotely. TVW is also covering it. The meeting helps kick off the statewide planning process for Washington's strategic workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP). Workforce Board staff will also be available at the conference to talk with frontline workforce professionals about their views of the current workforce plan and what changes they'd like to see going forward. More meeting details: <https://bit.ly/3t6b1NF>

FAFSA OPENS: ENCOURAGE WA STUDENTS TO APPLY

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opened on Oct. 1. Students nationwide are applying for aid that might support their college education or career training. Many students in Washington state are missing out – the state has the third-lowest FAFSA completion rate in the country. About \$50 million in federal aid has been left on the table by Washington students that never filed a FAFSA. To catch up, the Washington Student Achievement Council has launched several marketing campaigns to get the word out: there's money available, and you must file your FAFSA to get it. Washington has some of the most generous student aid programs in the country. Low- and middle-income families often discover college costs are either completely or significantly covered after aid. State programs also support students that choose technical education or apprenticeships. Learn more: <https://wsac.wa.gov/apply>

GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE HONORS EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Six public and private employers have been honored for their exemplary work recruiting, hiring, retaining, and advancing workers with disabilities. Two individuals were also recognized for their commitment and dedication to improving the lives of those with disabilities. Washington's Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment hosted its 30th annual Employer Awards Program on Oct. 21. Recipients included: Walgreens, Sedro-Woolley – Youth Employer of the Year Award; Spectrum Studios, Kennewick – Small Nonprofit Employer of the Year Award; Seattle Children's Hospital – Large Nonprofit Employer of the Year Award; Restoration Management Company, Kent – Small Private Employer of the Year Award; JCPenney, Marysville – Medium Private Employer of the Year Award; ABM Business & Industry, Seattle – Large Private Employer of the Year Award. More about the committee and the awards: <https://esd.wa.gov/GCDE>

SPOKANE WORKFORCE COUNCIL RECEIVES \$2M IN CHILDCARE FUNDING

The Spokane Workforce Council was recently provided with \$2 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to develop and implement a comprehensive program to support middle-income families struggling with childcare costs and the childcare industry experiencing challenges hiring and retaining workers. Stabilizing the region's childcare industry is crucial to continued economic recovery after the pandemic and will also help grow the regional workforce. During the pandemic, thousands of parents left the workforce to care for children and are struggling to return. More: <https://bit.ly/3EfVojG>

Oct. 12, 2022

HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL MEETS OCTOBER 13

The Health Workforce Council, staffed by the Workforce Board, is meeting (virtually) from noon to 4 p.m., Thursday (October 13) to learn more about healthcare workforce retention challenges, health professional loan repayment programs, and how to better address childcare needs of healthcare workers, among other issues. Learn more and register at: <https://bit.ly/3eoZJqE>

HEALTH WORKFORCE SENTINEL NETWORK OPEN 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 makes that information available to educators, policymakers, and others. There is an additional module for behavioral health facilities, with requests for details on challenges in the behavioral

health sector, which will be published in the upcoming Behavioral Health Workforce Assessment in December. 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. The Fall 2022 data collection round includes a special set of questions for facilities providing behavioral health services. We particularly encourage those employers to participate. More details: <https://bit.ly/3CqpaA7>

ADVOCATE FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE DISABILITIES THROUGH GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE

If you're interested in disability justice, apply to become a volunteer member of the Washington State Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment (GCDE). The GCDE is currently recruiting for a chairperson and four committee members. Application deadline is Oct. 13 for the chairperson, and October 14 for the committee members. Committee members must have a disability; have a family member with a disability; or provide services to, or be an advocate for, people with disabilities. Members identify issues and concerns about the rights and needs of people with disabilities, making recommendations to the governor, state Legislature, state agencies, the business community and the public.

Contact Elaine.Stefanowicz@esd.wa.gov for more details.

WORKFORCE BOARD SEEKS TWO LONG-TERM CARE APPRENTICESHIP NAVIGATORS

We're seeking two Apprenticeship Navigators to support a new long-term care registered apprenticeship program. The state Legislature tasked the Workforce Board to address the staffing concerns of long-term care facilities by implementing a registered apprenticeship program for nursing assistants-certified (NA-C) to become licensed practical nurses (LPN). This is a new program for both long-term care facility employers and the NA-Cs that is designed to improve the recruitment and retention of staff needed to provide quality long-term care for Washington residents. Our navigators – one on each side of the state – will help both employers and NA-Cs successfully traverse this new terrain and help the Workforce Board and its partners learn from this pilot and improve it for future offerings. We're looking for professionals with a passion for helping people succeed and the skills to support them and their employer sponsors throughout the apprenticeship journey. Deadline to apply is October 21. More: <https://bit.ly/3SZSj1>

ACCESS SPOKANE JOB & RESOURCE FAIR SET FOR OCTOBER 19-20

Access Spokane Job & Resource Fair is back in person from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, October 20, at the Centennial Hotel, and also offers a virtual option (October 19). Everyone in the community is invited to participate. The Spokane Workforce Council and WorkSource Spokane have partnered with Spokane County, Washington State Department of Social and Human Services, and Fox 28 to bring this annual event to the community in celebration of [National Disability Employment Awareness month](#) in October. More details at: <https://bit.ly/3ED5ITt>

Sept. 20, 2022

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS TO DISCUSS STATE WORKFORCE PLAN

The Workforce Board is meeting (virtually) from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday, September 21) to begin discussions on outreach and planning efforts for the state's strategic workforce development plan. The Board may also take action on proposed 2023 Legislative requests from partners. This meeting will be livestreamed by TVW. View the agenda at: <https://bit.ly/3doXXW9>

REGIONAL CHALLENGE GRANTS APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) is now accepting letters of interest from applicants for regional challenge grants. The grants seek to expand the number of community and regional partnerships—and support existing partnerships—focused on increasing postsecondary enrollment and credential completion. Target populations include: students of color, students from low-income backgrounds, English language learners, students with disabilities; and foster and homeless youth. Overall goals are to increase

direct enrollment of high school students, increase enrollment of adults returning to education, and increase the completion rate of students' postsecondary credentials. [More](https://bit.ly/3QWTbN1) at: <https://bit.ly/3QWTbN1>

LNI AWARDS \$1.8 MILLION IN FIRST-ROUND GRANTS SUPPORTING APPRENTICESHIP

More than \$1.8 million in state grants is going out to support registered apprenticeships around the state this summer and fall, and more is on the way. The state's Department of Labor and Industries recently began issuing the grants to apprenticeship programs and non-profit organizations that support them. The funds expand access and improve apprenticeship experiences across the state. Find out more about first-round recipients, training more than 3,600 apprentices, at: <https://lni.wa.gov/news-events/article/22-022>

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY: DELL SCHOLARS PROGRAM SEEKS GRIT, POTENTIAL AND AMBITION

The Dell Scholars Program emphasizes a student's determination to succeed more than just academic record and test scores. Their GPA requirement is Grit, Potential, and Ambition with scholarships up to \$20,000. Dell rewards low-income, highly motivated students who are better than their numbers indicate and demonstrate the drive to succeed despite personal obstacles. Deadline to apply is December 1: <https://www.dellscholars.org/scholarship/>

Sept. 1, 2022

WORKFORCE BOARD HOLDS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 8

The Workforce Board is meeting (virtually) from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 8 to take action on proposed requests for the Board's legislative agenda in the 2023 legislative session. View the agenda at: <https://bit.ly/3C9znCx>

APPLY NOW: \$8 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

The Washington Department of Labor and Industries urges apprenticeship programs across the state to apply as soon as possible to receive their share of \$8 million in grant funding. The reason? While the application period runs through Dec. 31, the deadline to spend the funds is June 30, 2023. Grant opportunities include: Technology and remote learning (\$2.37M); upgrading equipment (\$3.8M); driver education course vouchers for minors (\$12,000); wrap-around support services (\$1.9M). Get the application and more details: <https://bit.ly/3QeTL8t>

SECOND CHANCE TO WEIGH IN ON GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

During a late August listening session on graduation requirements alignment, the State Board of Education heard from a broad cross section of stakeholders, counselors, and parents. Didn't get to attend? SBE now has two additional listening sessions, including September 21 and September 26. Give feedback on how to better align requirements with the skills students need to thrive in life after high school. Get more details: <https://sbe.wa.gov/our-work/alignment>

AWB HOLDS MID-SEPTEMBER POLICY SUMMIT IN SPOKANE

The Association of Washington Business is holding its annual Policy Summit Sept. 13-15 at Spokane's historic Davenport Hotel. The summit brings together employers and policy experts to build connections with fellow business leaders from across the state. Registration and other details: <https://www.awb.org/event/policy-summit-2022/>

WWA WORKFORCE: STRONGER TOGETHER ANNOUNCES KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Registration is open and the keynotes are set for the Washington Workforce Association's fall conference, "Stronger Together," to be held Nov. 8-10 in Seattle. Area leaders, industry experts, and workforce professionals will come together to provide workshops that address the new and growing demands facing the state's workforce system. [Learn more](#) or [Register Now!](#)

Aug. 18, 2022

WORKFORCE BOARD HOLDS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 8

The Workforce Board is meeting (virtually) from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on September 8 to take action on proposed requests for the Board's legislative agenda in the 2023 legislative session. More details coming soon at: <https://bit.ly/3C9znCx>

PUBLIC SERVICE LOAN FORGIVENESS WAIVER RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Many public servants can now qualify for total student loan forgiveness or be closer to loan forgiveness, under temporary changes to the federal loan forgiveness program. Through October 31, federal student loan borrowers may receive credit for past periods of repayment that would otherwise not qualify. The Washington Student Achievement Council provides more details at: <https://wsac.wa.gov/PSLF>

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION: NAME OUR SEAL

The State Board of Education seeks name suggestions from Washington students for the agency's new Instagram seal. (SBE adopted an actual harbor seal with 100 percent donated funds, and now uses a seal graphic as an educational interactive symbol, including creating the seal's own Instagram account.) Students can submit their ideas, or educators can do this for them by emailing sbe@k12.wa.us. More details: <https://sbe.wa.gov/about-us/real-sbe-seal>

COMMERCE OFFERS UP TO \$5 MILLION TO HELP UNDERSERVED ENTREPRENEURS

The state's Department of Commerce is seeking fund proposals that offer community-based programs and services tailored to the specific needs of BIPOC entrepreneurs, women-owned small businesses, and businesses located in underserved, low-income, and rural areas. Organizations are eligible for grants between \$500,000 and \$5 million through a competitive award process. A total of \$34.5 million in federal funds is available through the Small Business Innovation Fund. The deadline to submit proposals is Sept. 2. <https://bit.ly/3QWhrQ6>

SAVE THE DATE FOR BIZFAIR ON SEPTEMBER 24

BizFair, the longest running all government and non-profit-run small business fair in Washington, is opening its doors once again to in-person attendees at Renton Technical College on Saturday, Sept. 24, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. BizFair is free to attend and is an opportunity for thousands of current and aspiring small business owners to meet, learn from business experts, find out about public-sector contracting opportunities, and more. Details: <https://bit.ly/3Avl0XO>

July 21, 2022

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS AUGUST 3 TO DISCUSS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Workforce Board is meeting (virtually) Wednesday, August 3 at 9 a.m. to review legislative requests for the 2023 session and listen to a youth multiple pathways panel that includes a presentation from State Superintendent Chris Reykdal, among other items. TWV will live stream the meeting. More details coming soon at: <https://bit.ly/3nJHAVC>

COMMERCE ADDS SMALL BUSINESS, CREATIVE ECONOMY POSITIONS

The state's Department of Commerce recently announced two new appointments in the agency's Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness. They include Shannon Halberstadt, who will cultivate partnerships and policy to grow creative businesses and jobs in Washington as the new Director of Creative

Economy sector development, and Linda Lee Womack, who will serve as Managing Director of Small Business and Community Support. Read more about these two women and their work at: <https://bit.ly/3B6oJMq>

WORKFORCE SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON PARTNERS ON QUALITY JOBS FRAMEWORK

Workforce Southwest Washington has partnered with Oregon counterparts Worksystems (Portland) and Clackamas Workforce Partnership to release a blueprint of actionable, detailed strategies for companies to improve their jobs and work conditions and attract workers. Read the Quality Jobs Framework at: <https://bit.ly/3v5uc21>

REGISTER FOR WA WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION FALL CONFERENCE

Registration is open for the Washington Workforce Association's fall conference, "Stronger Together," to be held Nov. 8-10 in Seattle. Area leaders, industry experts, and workforce professionals will come together to provide workshops that address the new and growing demands currently facing the state's workforce system. <https://bit.ly/3PMNv8pd>

FUTURE OF HEALTH WORKFORCE SUMMIT SET FOR JULY 28-29The Greater Columbia Accountable Community of Health is hosting a Future of the Health Workforce Summit July 28-29 in Walla Walla. This conference is aimed at helping healthcare organizations strengthen and optimize their workforce strategy, including building diversity, equity, inclusion. Reservations are limited. Reserve your seat at bit.ly/gcachsummit2022
July 7, 2022

BRAND NEW 2022 CAREER GUIDES ARE HERE!

The Workforce Board's popular (and free!) *Where Are You Going?* career guides are freshly updated and ready to distribute to WorkSource centers, middle and high schools, colleges and universities, community-based organizations, and more! The guide features hundreds of occupations, including projected growth rates in Washington, education requirements, and average pay in our state. At the back of the guide you'll find quick tips on how to write a resume and cover letter, do's and don'ts for interviews, and a wide range of education and career-focused resources, including grants and scholarships information. Order your own guides at: <https://bit.ly/3Nbk52C>

NEW WEBINARS SHOW EMPLOYERS HOW TO REPORT JOB TITLE INFO

The state's Employment Security Department is providing employers with a series of free webinars, including a session on Friday, July 15, on how to provide job title information using a federal coding system known as SOC codes. The Standard Occupational Classification coding system helps government agencies and private businesses compare occupational data. In 2020, the Legislature passed a law requiring employers to report SOC codes in their quarterly reports. Washington is just the third state in the nation to require employers to provide job title information. This new data stream will shed light on who is doing what (and where) throughout Washington, sharpening state labor market data and provide greater insight on whether education and training programs lead to specific careers. Get more info and register at: <https://bit.ly/3lyxSz7>

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR NEW APPRENTICESHIP FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The state's Department of Labor and Industries is sharing an opportunity to apply for funds that support registered apprenticeships. More than \$8 million in grants and project funds are available. The intent of these funds is to expand capacity for state-registered apprenticeship programs, provide equipment upgrades, and ensure apprentices have access to a broad suite of student support services. Funding opportunities include: Technology and Remote Learning (\$2.37 million); Upgrading Equipment (\$3.8 million); Driver Education Course Voucher for Minors (\$12,000); Wrap-Around Support Services (\$1.9 million). More details: <https://bit.ly/3yORnQB>

AVERAGE ANNUAL WAGE IN 2021 SECOND LARGEST INCREASE IN TWO DECADES!

Washington's average annual wage grew by 7.5 percent in 2021 to \$82,508, according to the state's Employment Security Department. The strong demand for workers and hiring difficulties across different sectors drove average wage growth in 2021 to the second largest increase in two decades. The greatest wage growth was in industry sectors with large numbers of lower-wage workers, such as: Leisure & hospitality—up 14.2%; Transportation and warehousing—up 7.6%; Retail trade—up 6.5%. More: <https://bit.ly/3nlxowz>

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR WEDA CONFERENCE

The Washington Economic Development Association is holding its summer conference Aug. 9-11 in Bellingham with the theme "Resilience: Building a More Sustainable Economy for All." Early bird rates are available through July 19. More, including preliminary agenda, at: <https://bit.ly/3yM0ph8>

June 1, 2022

BRAND NEW 2022 CAREER GUIDES ARE HERE!

The Workforce Board's popular (and free!) Where Are You Going? Career guides are freshly updated and hot off the press. They're ready to distribute to WorkSource centers, middle and high schools, colleges and universities, community-based organizations, and more! This popular guide features a career quiz for readers to pinpoint their interests and abilities and how they relate to a range of careers. The guide also includes hundreds of occupations, including projected growth rates in Washington, education requirements, and average pay in our state. At the back of the guide you'll find quick tips on how to write a resume and cover letter, do's and don'ts for interviews, and a wide range of education and career-focused resources, including grants and scholarships information. To get your own guides, go to: <https://bit.ly/3Nbk52C>

DEADLINE EXTENDED: WORKFORCE SENTINEL NETWORK NOW CLOSES JUNE 6

Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network has extended the deadline 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 by employers, 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, the Health Workforce Council, and the University of Washington's Center for Health Workforce Studies. More details: <https://bit.ly/3za7zMW>

WASHINGTON WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR NOVEMBER CONFERENCE

The Washington Workforce Association is seeking breakout presentations that showcase best practices, along with innovative programs and projects with proven results, for the organization's Nov. 8-10 Seattle area conference. The conference brings together workforce professionals, as well as business and labor leaders. More details about presentation proposals: <https://bit.ly/3abMjvl>. To register: <https://bit.ly/3t83xk4>

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT FOR REGIONAL GRANTS AIMED AT WA ENROLLMENT CHALLENGES

The Washington Student Achievement Council will award Regional Challenge Grants to local and regional partnerships across K-12, colleges and universities, and community-based organizations to increase college enrollment and completion, support high school students and adult learners, and eliminate opportunity gaps. It's part of a larger effort to address an enrollment decline in Washington's colleges and universities. The grant program is currently under development and WSAC is calling for public input on grant design through a virtual meeting June 16 from 10-11 a.m. The Legislature provided \$6 million in initial funding for regional grants for 2022-23. Register for the meeting and learn more: <https://bit.ly/3x67p7z>

May 10, 2022

WORKFORCE BOARD TO DISCUSS LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AT MAY 25 MEETING

The Workforce Board will continue discussing its 2023 legislative agenda at a May 25 (virtual) meeting, which starts at 9 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. The Board will also hear from community voices on filling workforce service gaps, with participants providing feedback through several panels. More details and an agenda coming soon at: <https://bit.ly/3KYX15v>

NEW PROGRAM HELPS WA BUSINESSES IMPLEMENT RETURN TO WORK PROGRAM

A new program from the state's Department of Labor and Industries is aimed at helping Washington businesses explore return-to-work opportunities for their injured workers. Studies show a link between the amount of time a worker stays on time-loss and whether they go back to work or go into long-term disability. The program, which helps employers work with their employees on continuing employment to maintain their quality of life, includes education on financial incentive programs for getting injured workers back to work as soon as medically feasible. The program also assists employers in creating "light duty" opportunities, among other features. More details at: <https://bit.ly/3vYgO0y>

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES NEW CREATIVES ACADEMY FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

The Washington Department of Commerce has launched a new Creatives Academy, the third in a series of self-directed educational academies for small business owners. Designed to teach the essential skills needed to turn a creative pursuit into a successful small business, the academy provides lessons ranging from developing a business mindset to creating winning pitches. Lessons are available at MyStartup365.com.

WA STATE CTE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW OPEN

Know a student interested in pursuing an associate degree, certificate, or apprenticeship in a trade, STEM, or healthcare field? Encourage them to apply for the Career and Technical Scholarship by June 5. This scholarship is aimed at helping launch students into high-demand careers, providing \$1,500 per quarter for eligible Washington state residents enrolled in an approved program at one of the state's 34 community and technical colleges. More details: <https://bit.ly/3yvOW5P>

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR SUMMER CTE CONFERENCE IN SPOKANE

The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education holds its annual summer conference in Spokane from Aug. 7-10. Register before June 30 for additional early bird savings. <https://bit.ly/39637DY>

April 12, 2022

WORKFORCE BOARD WELCOMES NEW BOARD CHAIRS, MEMBERS AT APRIL 20 MEETING

The Workforce Board will welcome new Board co-chairs at its April 20 (virtual) meeting, which starts at 9 a.m. and runs until 3:15 p.m. The new chairs are Gary Chandler, vice president of strategic affairs at the Association of Washington Business, and Larry Brown, president of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO. They succeed former Workforce Board Chair Perry England, vice president of building performance at MacDonald-Miller Facility Solutions in Seattle, who chaired the Board from 2015 through 2021. Governor Inslee announced the appointment which brings together labor and business leaders at a time when the state faces pivotal workforce and economic challenges during an ongoing pandemic. The Board will also welcome several new Board members at the meeting. More details at: <https://bit.ly/38C6IsV>

WAVE AWARD LAUNCHES: HELP SPREAD THE WORD TO CTE STUDENTS!

The Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) relaunched after a 10-year hiatus due to budget cutbacks during the Great Recession. The award recognizes high-performing career and technical education (CTE) students at both the high school and college level, covering up to two years of tuition, according to the tuition charged by the institution students will attend—up to \$11,000 per year. WAVE is administered by the Workforce Board in collaboration with the Washington Student Achievement Council, which handles the

disbursement of funds. But students will need to act fast! The application deadline is May 6. See the Workforce Board's WAVE landing page for all the details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/wave/>

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2ND ANNUAL SOUND CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE WEEK

Registration is open for Sound Careers in Healthcare Week, a free, virtual event targeted at Washington high school youth and young adults ages 16-24, that allows participants to engage directly with healthcare providers to explore healthcare career pathways. This weeklong event is slated for April 25-29, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Students are welcome to participate all week, or for just one day. Register at: bit.ly/SCIH2022

STATE WORKFORCE PLAN OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Workforce Board is seeking public comment on draft updates to the 2020-2024 Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP) state strategic plan for workforce development. The Board also seeks public feedback on proposed performance targets for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Titles I and III. Comments will be accepted through April 15. Please be sure to include your name, organization, contact information, and the nature of your comments, as well as the page number on which you are commenting. More details, including the draft plan and proposed performance targets, at: <https://bit.ly/35qJVPC>

AWB INSTITUTE & AEROSPACE FUTURES ALLIANCE PRESENT WORKFORCE SUMMIT IN JUNE

The AWB Institute is joining with the Aerospace Futures Alliance and Career Connect Washington to host a summit on key workforce issues from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. [on June 28 at the Museum of Flight](#) in Seattle. This Workforce Summit will bring together employers, including those from the manufacturing and aerospace industries, to discuss pressing needs facing their industry when it comes to workforce, and how best to connect/collaborate with educational partners to ensure strong career pathways for young people into these high-wage, high-growth careers. Registration and more details: <https://bit.ly/3vaH7ir>
March 31, 2022

WAVE AWARD LAUNCHES: HELP SPREAD THE WORD TO CTE STUDENTS!

The Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) relaunched today after a 10-year hiatus due to budget cutbacks during the Great Recession. The award recognizes high-performing career and technical education (CTE) students at both the high school and college level, covering up to two years of tuition, according to the tuition charged by the institution students will attend—up to \$11,000 per year. WAVE is administered by the Workforce Board in collaboration with the Washington Student Achievement Council, which handles the disbursement of funds. But students will need to act fast! The application deadline is May 6. In addition to completing the application, housed on theWashBoard.org, students will need to submit at least two letters of recommendation and ensure their teacher or instructor signs off on their eligibility via a certification form. So don't delay. See the Workforce Board's WAVE landing page for all the details: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/wave/>

STATE WORKFORCE PLAN OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Workforce Board is seeking public comment on draft updates to the 2020-2024 Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP) state strategic plan for workforce development. The Board also seeks public feedback on performance targets for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Titles I and III. Comments will be accepted through April 15. Please be sure to include your name, organization, contact information, and the nature of your comments, as well as the page number on which you are commenting. More details, including the draft plan and negotiated performance targets, at: <https://bit.ly/35qJVPC>

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION HOLDS LISTENING SESSIONS ON GRADUATION ALIGNMENT PROJECT

The State Board of Education is developing recommendations related to high school graduation requirements to support expanding opportunities for mastery-based learning for earning a high school diploma. Recently, SBE led the development of the state's Profile of a Graduate, which includes a set of transferable, multi-

disciplinary skills students should develop during their K-12 experience. The Legislature charged SBE with developing recommendations to align graduation requirements with the Profile of a Graduate. Listening sessions begin in mid-April. Find out more, including specific listening sessions dates and times, at: <https://www.sbe.wa.gov/our-work/alignment>

REGISTRATION OPENS FOR ANEW DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SUMMIT

ANEW, which focuses on helping women access living-wage careers through apprenticeships in the trades, is hosting its sixth annual Diversity and Inclusion Summit, a virtual event that will be held over four days (May 23-25), along with an in-person conference on May 26. The conference addresses the importance of cultivating a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for every person in your organization. Register at: <https://conta.cc/3LwCPZu>

WORKFORCE BOARD IS HIRING!

Come work with mission-driven (and oh so cool) colleagues at the Workforce Board. We're hiring for several positions including a Human Resources Consultant 4, a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Program and Policy Manager, and a Health and Social Policy Associate. Get all the details at: <https://www.wtb.wa.gov/about-us/employment/>

March 9, 2022

CHECK OUT WORKFORCE TRAINING RESULTS 2022

Get the latest employment and earnings results for some of the state's largest workforce programs with the recent release of Workforce Training Results. Every year, Workforce Board research staff independently evaluate the performance, including the taxpayer return on investment, for 12 of the state's largest workforce programs. These programs account for over 98 percent of the federal and state dollars spent on our state's workforce development system. <https://bit.ly/371C9vZ>

FREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS ON IMPLICIT BIAS START THURSDAY

The Implicit Bias Institute in Workforce Education invites participants to a series of free professional development webinar presentations on high-impact implicit bias topics, including neurodiversity and student homelessness. Webinars are an hour long and will be captioned live and posted for easy access. The Institute is led by several Washington Centers of Excellence, including Marine Manufacturing & Technology, Careers in Education, Construction, Agriculture & Natural Resources, and the Machinists Institute. The first session is slated for Thursday, March 10 at 11 a.m. Registration and more details at: <https://adobe.ly/35EHRni>

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SEEKS STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES FOR SUMMER PROGRAM

The University of Washington is recruiting high school students with disabilities for a summer study opportunity to learn about college. The DO-IT Scholars Program is especially hoping to recruit students from rural areas in Washington, students of color, students in foster care, and students from marginalized backgrounds. DO-IT Scholars prepares Washington high school students with disabilities for success in college and careers. Scholars attend summer study sessions, held during three consecutive summers at the University of Washington campus. This allows students to experience college life and work on self-advocacy skills. Throughout the school year, Scholars connect with program staff and DO-IT Mentors. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3MBJ9Qs>

COMMERCE NAMES NEW WORKFORCE INNOVATION DIRECTOR

The state's Department of Commerce has created a new Workforce Innovation Director and Industry Sector Coordinator position and appointed Carolyn Busch to fill it. Prior to this role, Busch served as Special Projects Manager for King County's Department of Human Resources and as Chief of Staff for the King County Council.

Busch will lead Commerce's work to address major workforce shortages, underemployment, degree inflation, and disparate work experiences by gender and race. More: <https://bit.ly/37f47og>

REGISTER FOR EMPOWER WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

EmPower Women's Leadership Conference is holding a free virtual event on Friday, March 11 from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. that brings together women in trades careers to celebrate their success as leaders, inspire other women to find and embrace their inner leader, and showcase the possibilities when women succeed in breaking barriers. The event is sponsored by the Construction Center of Excellence. Hear from industry leaders and current apprentices. Register at: <https://conta.cc/3sRGYR2>
Feb. 24, 2022

CHECK OUT WORKFORCE BOARD 2022 LEGISLATIVE TRACKER

Get the latest workforce legislation the Workforce Board is tracking this session in one handy place. Our 2022 Legislative Tracker includes bill numbers and titles our staff are following as this legislative session heads into its final weeks. The tracker also includes legislative presentations from Workforce Board staff recorded on TVW. See for yourself: <https://bit.ly/35sH7RN>

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ISSUES ANNUAL REPORT

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation has released its annual report that includes a director's letter, DVR by the numbers, and four new stories showcasing customer success across Washington. Check it out: <https://bit.ly/36Fobjp>

HOW SHOULD COLLEGES AND INDUSTRY RESPOND TO CDL DRIVER TRAINING DEMAND?

Several of Washington's Centers of Excellence—including Global Trade and Supply Chain Management; Construction; and Agriculture and Natural Resource—have pulled together a forum for interested people to talk about this ongoing issue which has gained national attention in recent months as a chronic shortage of professional truck drivers contributes to supply chain delays. The forum runs from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., Wednesday, March 2. Register by emailing cce@rtc.edu. More details: <https://bit.ly/3pf4vZV>

COLLEGES MAY ADJUST FINANCIAL AID BASED ON CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES

If someone in your family has lost a job or is working less, colleges may be able to provide more financial aid. Colleges may adjust financial aid based on a student's or parent's job loss, loss of benefits (like child support), or even extraordinary medical or dental bills. Learn more at the Washington Student Achievement Council's Financial Aid Appeals page: <https://bit.ly/3LS8rcZ>

REGISTER FOR MENTOR WASHINGTON APRIL 29-30 CONFERENCE

MENTOR Washington is holding a conference dubbed U.N.I.T.Y. (Unifying Networks Investing in Today's Youth) on April 29-30 that focuses on program development and best practices, along with highlighting mentor-mentee relationships and youth mental health. Get more details and register at: <https://bit.ly/36lbQep>

Jan. 27, 2022

WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS NEXT WEEK TO ADVANCE STATE WORKFORCE PLAN

The Workforce Board will meet (virtually) from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 2 and is expected to take action on updating Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP), the state's workforce plan. A near-final draft of the plan will be going out soon for public comment. Other meeting agenda items are coming soon! Big thanks to TVW for livestreaming this public meeting. <https://bit.ly/3Hnnb0V>

CHECK OUT WORKFORCE BOARD 2022 LEGISLATIVE TRACKER

Get the latest workforce legislation the Workforce Board is tracking this session in one handy place. Our 2022 Legislative Tracker includes bill numbers and titles our staff are following during this short legislative session. The tracker also includes legislative presentations from Workforce Board staff recorded on TVW. See for yourself: <https://bit.ly/35sH7RN>

STATE AWARDS SCHOOLS WITH FUNDS FOR MASTERY-BASED LEARNING

The Washington State Board of Education is offering funding for 18 schools to support mastery-based learning, sometimes called competency-based education. Schools were selected through a competitive process with the goal of fully implementing this learning model over the next few years. Grantees will also receive professional learning from a nationally recognized provider to successfully align their instruction with the state's MBL framework. In total, the state budgeted \$5 million to support this program. Find out which schools were selected, more: <https://bit.ly/3rW9FL5>

WA STATE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR TWO AND FOUR-YEAR DEGREES

Two STEM-based scholarships are open for applications right now—at both the two-year and four-year degree levels. The Career and Technical Scholarship, which closes next week on Feb. 6, provides \$1,500 per quarter and is aimed at those pursuing an eligible associate degree, certificate, or apprenticeship in a trade, STEM or health care field. More: <https://bit.ly/3rVV0zr>. The Baccalaureate Scholarship provides up to \$22,500 in financial aid for those pursuing a bachelor's degree in eligible high-demand STEM and health care fields. Deadline for this scholarship is March 2. More: <https://bit.ly/3r1tukF>. Let potential students know about both of these WA State Opportunity Scholarships today!

REGISTER FOR FEBRUARY 10 APPRENTICESHIP SUMMIT

An apprenticeship summit slated for 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., February 10, and sponsored by the Construction Center of Excellence at Renton Technical College and other partners, offers information on advising students about entering apprenticeships, common apprenticeship misconceptions, and resources to support women and people of color entering apprenticeship, among other topics. Registration is free! <https://conta.cc/32ClwoY>
Jan. 11, 2022

WORKFORCE BOARD'S POPULAR WORKFORCE SYSTEM POSTER NOW ONLINE

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 gazing at on your home computer or (for some lucky folks) on their office PC. This poster provides a look at Washington's workforce system's largest programs—who they serve, how much is spent, and employment and earnings for participants. This year's 2022 poster is currently available on the web, but will also be published and mailed to stakeholders once data is complete. (We're waiting for a partner to provide a few missing data points.) It's all there in minty fresh green: <https://bit.ly/3H00twQ>

HEALTH SENTINEL NETWORK RELEASES NEW FINDINGS

Washington's Health Workforce Sentinel Network has released new findings on how hospitals, primary care clinics, community health centers, and other healthcare facilities are addressing a health workforce crisis that has deepened with the COVID-19 pandemic. The most recent data collection is from this fall and sorted and summarized by facility types. A lack of available trained staff cuts across all healthcare areas, impacting patient care, training opportunities, employee retention, and sparking ongoing frontline fatigue by overworked healthcare workers. Twice a year, the Sentinel Network helps capture key recruitment, retention, and skills issues, 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. More details: <https://bit.ly/3ngiduD>

WASHINGTON PUBLIC FOUR-YEARS LAUNCH GUARANTEED ADMISSION PROGRAM (GAP) PILOT

Five of the state's public baccalaureate institutions are partnering with over 60 school districts and schools to increase the college-going culture statewide. Partnering with districts and schools in all nine Educational Service Districts, Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, The Evergreen State College, Washington State University, and Western Washington University launched a joint pilot to support guaranteed admissions programs at each institution. To be eligible students must meet criteria set by institutions. If a student meets the criteria or is on track to meet the criteria by high school completion, admission to the institution is guaranteed. Institutions are also engaging with districts and schools to encourage students who may not be eligible for guaranteed admission to apply through the regular admissions process. To learn more go to: <https://councilofpresidents.org/admissions/>

NEW DIRECTORS CHOSEN TO HELM TWO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS

It's a new year and two new leaders have stepped up to head a pair of Workforce Development Councils, which deliver on-the-ground workforce services in 12 regions across the state. The WDCs include: North Central (Wenatchee), where Lisa Romine has succeeded Dave Petersen as the new Executive Director of SkillSource. Romine has led North Central regional planning, implemented workforce investment programs including sector partnerships and incumbent worker training, and developed pre-employment training for students. At Workforce Southwest Washington (Vancouver), Miriam Halliday has succeeded Kevin Perkey as Chief Executive Officer. Halliday was most recently the organization's Director of Programs and joined Workforce Southwest as its youth manager in 2016. These leadership changes follow two others at Olympic Workforce Development Council, where William Dowling was named the organization's new director, and at Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council, where William Westmoreland was recently hired as the new CEO.

WHAT IS WORKSOURCE?

Faithful readers of this newsletter likely know better than most that WorkSource provides employment and training services to jobseekers and businesses across Washington. But you'll get the full scoop when you listen to a fast-paced and informative podcast from the South Central Workforce Council (Yakima). Take a listen and wonder no more about all things WorkSource! <https://apple.co/3GhXRbT>