

# Workforce Development Newsletters

Dec. 11, 2023

## **WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS WEDNESDAY TO HEAR ABOUT CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

The Workforce Board will meet in person from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 13 to hear more about how career and technical education (CTE) is delivered in Washington, including a briefing that includes key education officials at both the K-12 and postsecondary level. The Board will also be updated on the Clean Energy Technology Workforce and will discuss their role in implementing the state's strategic workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP), among other items. This meeting will be held at the Washington State Labor Council office, second floor, in Olympia. More meeting details, including information on remote access at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

## **UNEMPLOYMENT 101: LEARN THE BASICS ON ELIGIBILITY, BENEFITS AND MORE**

The Washington State Labor Council and the state's Employment Security Department are teaming up to offer free online unemployment insurance training on Dec. 19 and 20. Participants will learn the basics of eligibility and how benefits are calculated, how to open a claim, file for weekly benefits, navigate and fix issues regarding the claim, and where to find help if needed. Registration is required. <https://tinyurl.com/5yt3ma7u>

## **NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTS LONG-TERM CARE WORKFORCE CHALLENGES**

The Workforce Board has issued a new report that outlines the workforce challenges in caring for Washington's aging and vulnerable populations, including attracting and retaining quality long-term care workers, many of whom confront burnout and financial pressure in pivotal, frontline jobs. Average turnover is high at about 50 percent for direct care workers. Nearly half of home care workers received public assistance in 2020. In addition to identifying pain points, the Workforce Board is leading the discussion of solution-finding, including piloting the state's first ever Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) apprenticeship—providing a high-skill, high-wage pathway for front-line care workers. Read the report and learn more about the Workforce Board's Long-Term Care Initiative at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/long-term-care/>

## **WA COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGES TO OFFER NO-COST OPEN TEXTBOOKS**

The Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) recently received a \$2.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a three-year initiative to expand the number of free introductory textbooks for students in professional-technical programs. College faculty members and SBCTC open education

experts will use the funds to create a set of seven open textbooks for programs in internet technology; forensic science; computer-aided design; health, safety, and nutrition; computer numerical control machining; culinary math; and periodontics. It's part of SBCTC's "Washington Open ProfTech" project, which involves developing open textbooks to prepare students for some of the highest-demand jobs in Washington. More info: <https://tinyurl.com/yx54rub7>

### **REGISTER FOR PNAAC ANNUAL AEROSPACE CONFERENCE**

The Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance is holding its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual conference from Feb. 5-8 at the Lynnwood Event Center. This year's conference is focused on a rapidly evolving landscape that includes challenges such as increasing global competition, rising material costs, and technological advancements. Get more details and register at: <https://www.pnaa.net/events/pnaa-advance-2024-conference>

**Nov. 6, 2023**

### **WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS TOMORROW TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS FOR STATE WORKFORCE PLAN**

The Workforce Board will meet in person from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 7, on next steps—along with progress made—in updating the state's strategic workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP). As a great example of TAP in action, representatives from the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs and the state's Employment Security Department will present on how they've worked together to better deliver services to veterans and transitioning service members. The Board will also consider legislative endorsements for the 2024 session. Meeting details:

<https://wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

### **TAP SURVEY: WHAT'S WORKING, WHAT'S NOT IN WA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Workforce development professionals, have we got a survey for you! We're asking about Washington's workforce development system as we—along with partners and stakeholders—update Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP), our state's strategic plan for workforce development. Already, we've received nearly 150 responses. This survey is aimed at workforce development folks, along with system customers—both jobseekers and businesses. Take the survey today! Then pass it on. <https://tinyurl.com/2p8x9tcj>

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN FOR WASHINGTON BROADBAND EQUITY**

The Washington State Broadband Office has opened the public comment period for Washington's Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) Volume II. The public comment period ends on November 30. Volume II details the initial proposal's planning and sub-grantee selection process, and other requirements

associated with using BEAD funding. The BEAD program is focused on helping more Americans get online through funding partnerships that build needed infrastructure and increase high-speed internet adoption. Washington will receive more than \$1.2 billion in federal funds. More: <https://tinyurl.com/5dweemfk>

## **GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE HONORS EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment (GCDE) honored 10 employers earlier last month for their exemplary work recruiting, hiring, retaining, and advancing workers with disabilities. The committee also recognized two individuals for their commitment and dedication to improve the lives of those with disabilities. More details: <https://esd.wa.gov/gcde/projects/awards>

## **WE'RE HIRING A CAREER BRIDGE IT SPECIALIST**

The Workforce Board is hiring an IT Application Development – Journey-Level, to oversee the improvement and daily operations of the state's public-facing career and education portal [www.CareerBridge.wa.gov](http://www.CareerBridge.wa.gov). This two-year project position, which we hope to extend if funding is available, runs through the summer of 2025. This project gives you the chance to demonstrate your IT and project management skills on a website that has gained national attention for providing Washington students and jobseekers with a "consumer report card" for thousands of postsecondary education and training programs so they can make informed career and education decisions. The site, nearly 15 years old, is in the middle of a substantial technical upgrade that will lead to a more dynamic user experience and reach more areas of the state, along with diverse and underserved populations, through a new, mobile-friendly design. The position closes Nov. 20. More: <https://wtb.wa.gov/about-us/employment/>

**Oct. 25, 2023**

## **WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS NOVEMBER 7 TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS FOR STATE WORKFORCE PLAN**

The Workforce Board will meet in person from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, November 7, on next steps—along with progress made—in updating the state's strategic workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP). As a great example of TAP in action, representatives from the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs and the state's Employment Security Department will provide a presentation on how they've worked together to better deliver services to veterans and transitioning service members. The Board will also consider legislative endorsements for the 2024 session. More meeting details coming soon!

### **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, and makes that information available to educators, policymakers, and others. Previous findings have helped create new policies to help address a range of health workforce issues. 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 data collection is open through November 10. More: <https://wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/health-workforce-council/>

### **REGISTER FOR VIRTUAL HIRE-A-VET JOB FAIR**

The state's Employment Security Department in conjunction with WorkSource employment centers is helping host a virtual job fair for veterans, transitioning service members, and their spouses from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on November 7. YES VETS is a statewide, multi-partner effort to encourage hiring of U.S. military veterans. Nearly 100 participating employers will be a part of the online job fair. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/4wm5kydr>

### **NEW DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION NAMED AT OSPI**

Krista Fox has been named the new director of Career and Technical Education (CTE) at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, effective Nov. 16. Fox comes to OSPI from Tacoma Community College where she served as the Associate Provost of Workforce and Dean of Health, Business & Wellness. Fox has worked over 25 years with Washington's community and technical college system. She is also a first-generation college graduate who aims to provide an equity-focused approach to educating tomorrow's workforce. <https://tinyurl.com/mr2kmyu2>

### **JOHN TRAUOGOTT TAKES HELM OF WASHINGTON WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION**

John Traugott, formerly with the state's Employment Security Department (ESD), was named the new executive director of the Washington Workforce Association, which represents the majority of the state's regional workforce development councils. Traugott has extensive experience with both state and local level workforce development initiatives. At ESD, he managed Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grants and contracts, led implementation of new initiatives, and managed multi-agency teams to streamline poverty reduction systems and support economic recovery. He's also served as the director of community and employment service at Highline College in Des Moines and provided youth and business services in the local workforce development system. More: <https://washingtonworkforce.org/news-and-insights/>

**Oct. 2, 2023**

### **WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS WEDNESDAY TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS FOR STATE WORKFORCE PLAN**

The Workforce Board will meet in person from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 4, on next steps in planning and updating the state's strategic workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP). More meeting and registration details at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

### **PIERCE COUNTY MANUFACTURING DAY EXPO SET FOR THURSDAY**

Help celebrate and support the manufacturing sector this Thursday (Oct. 5) from 1-5 p.m. at Pierce County's Manufacturing Day Expo, held at Clover Park Technical College. The expo will be in the college's Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Lakewood. The Expo offers the opportunity to learn about new frontiers in manufacturing, including automation, robotics, instrumentation and process control, and supply chain logistics equipment. Students, parents, and educators can meet with industry representatives and discover how to connect to this growing sector. The in-person event is presented by the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County, Clover Park Technical College, Pierce County Economic Development Department, City of Lakewood, City of Tacoma, and Impact Washington. Registration details: <https://tinyurl.com/2ns38nkt>

### **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) TEACHER NAMED STATE TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

Blaire Penry, who teaches CTE courses and electives in leadership and the arts at Auburn Online School, has been named the 2024 Washington State Teacher of the Year. Auburn Online School serves approximately 270 students in grades 1-12 in the Auburn School District and was established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As an inaugural faculty member at the school, Penry contributed to designing a curriculum that uses new and varied technology to engage students. Penry has also created and led professional development trainings for Auburn Online faculty. As an active member of the Auburn Equity Leadership Academy, she promotes culturally responsive practices throughout the Auburn School District. <https://tinyurl.com/bdf3ytyz>

### **WWA WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES KEYNOTE CONFERENCE SPEAKERS**

Registration is open and the keynotes are set for the Washington Workforce Association's fall conference, "Stronger Together," Nov. 14-16 in Tacoma. 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. Bonus: The Workforce Board will be staffing what we call the "TAP Lounge," where staff will be on hand to discuss the state's workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All. Our team

will gather ideas and feedback on what the state needs to focus on as this strategic plan is updated. The Early Bird registration deadline is today, Oct. 2. More details: <https://tinyurl.com/mwf639b6>

## **REGISTRATION OPEN FOR FALL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

Now is the time to register for the fall Washington Association for Career and Technical Education conference on Oct. 26 and 27 at Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound/Centralia. This is an in-person conference. <https://www.wa-acte.org/upcoming>

**Sept. 20, 2023**

## **WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS TO DISCUSS NEXT STEPS FOR WORKFORCE PLAN**

The Workforce Board will meet from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, October 4, to discuss the next steps in planning and updating the state's strategic workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP). More meeting and registration details at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

## **HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL MEETS SEPTEMBER 21**

The Health Workforce Council, staffed by the Workforce Board, is holding a virtual meeting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., (tomorrow) Thursday, Sept. 21 to discuss potential updates and council recommendations, including strategies to reduce the educational debt burden of the health workforce, as well as childcare access, among other items. Get more details and register for the meeting at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/health-workforce-council/health-workforce-council-meetings/>

## **ADVOCATE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AS PART OF 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 and Employment (GCDE). The GCDE is currently recruiting for three committee members. Application deadline is Oct. 13. The committee has 25 volunteer members appointed by the governor. They serve a 3-year term with the possibility of being appointed to a second 3-year term. All new members will be appointed by Gov. Inslee to serve terms starting January 2024. Committee members can live anywhere in Washington state. They must have a disability; have a family member with a disability; or provide services to, or be an advocate for, people with disabilities. Learn more: <https://esd.wa.gov/GCDE/member>

## **CAREER GUIDES ARE HERE—NOW WE NEED TO MOVE THEM OUT!**

It's officially fall. And that means the Workforce Board's popular (and free!) Where Are You Going? Career guides are ready to distribute to WorkSource centers, middle and

high schools, colleges and universities, community-based organizations, and more. This popular guide was printed just last year (middle of 2022), so the information is still fresh and actionable for your customers. The 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. Get your own guides at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/career-resources/order-publications/>

### **PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR STANDARDS BOARD SEEKS REVIEWERS**

The Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) seeks volunteers to participate in reviewing grant applications for the Alternative Route Block Grant. This grant provides scholarships to teacher candidates in alternative route programs, as well as funding to approved alternative route program partnerships engaging in “grow your own” strategies to address district and candidate needs. Reviewers will be asked to participate in an orientation via Zoom, review applications, and participate in an application review meeting via Zoom this fall. Interested? Act now! You’ll need to sign up by Friday, Sept. 22. More at: <https://tinyurl.com/3usakec2>

**Aug. 3, 2023**

### **WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS VIRTUALLY AUGUST 9**

The Workforce Board will hold a virtual board meeting next week, Wednesday, Aug. 9, to discuss the next steps in planning and updating the state’s strategic workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP), along with reviewing potential legislative requests for the 2024 session. TVW will livestream the meeting. More meeting and registration details at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/workforce-board/board-meetings-agendas/>

### **WASHINGTON WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION AWARDS—SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION TODAY**

The Washington Workforce Association will gather area leaders, industry experts, economic development professionals, workforce professionals, and elected officials in Tacoma at their Nov. 14-16 conference to address the new and growing demands facing our workforce system. Awards will also be handed out to folks tackling this hard work, including a Workforce Partner of the Year, Professional of the Year, and Employer of the Year. Submit your nomination by Sept. 8. <https://bit.ly/3Kqbcml>. Conference details: <https://washingtonworkforce.org/fall-conference/>

### **ANEW TAKES ON NEW FINANCIAL AID ROLE FOR APPRENTICESHIPS**

ANEW has taken on a new role as the third-party servicer of the Washington Grant for Apprenticeship (WG-A) in partnership with the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC). In this role, ANEW will serve as the financial aid office for income-

eligible apprentices in WSAC-approved registered apprenticeship programs, also known as “Sponsor” programs. Through WG-A, apprentices can receive up to \$4,466 in training funds to cover apprenticeship costs like tuition, fees, and materials. For income-eligible apprentices, there is also potential for an additional \$500 in funding through the Washington Bridge Grant. ANEW will support apprentices in the initial application process, oversee the disbursement, tracking, and notification of awards to eligible apprentices, manage reporting, and more. Details: <https://wsac.wa.gov/apprenticeship-program-providers>

### **VIDEOS BOOST AWARENESS OF FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS**

Simple, accurate information provided in an engaging way in an educational environment can help improve student understanding and awareness of financial aid and college or training options, according to a new case study report from the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC). Animated videos developed by WSAC and the North Central Educational Service District increased students’ knowledge about financial aid and postsecondary education opportunities available in Washington. [View the full report.](#)

### **SEE YOU AT THE WA-ACTE CONFERENCE IN SPOKANE!**

The Workforce Board is handing out (free!) career and education exploration materials and providing presentations on CTE scholarship opportunities (think WAVE!), unveiling new plans for CareerBridge.wa.gov, and more, at this year’s Washington Association for Career and Technical Education summer conference in Spokane, Aug. 6-9. Stop by our booth and say hi—we’ll throw a few Where Are You Going career guides in your conference bag and update you on the latest happenings in Washington’s workforce development scene. More conference details: <https://www.wa-acte.org/summer>.

**June 29, 2023**

### **WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS VIRTUALLY AUGUST 9**

The Workforce Board will hold a virtual board meeting Wednesday, Aug. 9 to discuss next steps in planning and updating the state’s strategic workforce plan, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP), along with reviewing potential legislative requests for the 2024 session. More meeting and registration details coming soon! Read more about TAP planning at: <https://bit.ly/46v3m4m>

### **CATCH SESSION ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND WORKFORCE**

The Workforce Board participated in a panel discussion that featured futurists, journalists, and higher education leaders from the University of Washington’s Continuum College at a recent legislative work session focused on artificial intelligence and the future of work. The conversation included the rise of ChatGPT and Large



Language Models, and a live demo that showed how quickly this new AI tool could answer topical questions and even write legislation. Panelists, including the Workforce Board's Career Pathways Manager Joe Wilcox, noted how rapidly these new technologies have been incorporated into business and education, and their impact on our workforce in potentially displacing people, but also augmenting how we do our jobs. View on TVW: <https://bit.ly/3NT71lq>

### **WASHINGTON MEDIA SHARES WAVE STORY ACROSS STATE**

The Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) is changing lives and making headlines across the state from Moses Lake to Yakima, to Monroe and Tri-Cities. This year's winners of this merit-based scholarship administered by the Workforce Board shared how the scholarship will help them achieve their career and education goals. WAVE celebrates the state's top career and technical education students at Washington high schools and community & technical colleges, helping pay a portion of tuition and other costs as they move forward with education and career plans. This year's awardees are working to become commercial pilots, nurses, sign language interpreters, and manufacturing leaders, among other careers needed by Washington employers. Read more about WAVE and view the media coverage at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/wave/>

### **REGISTRATION OPEN FOR WEDA CONFERENCE IN WALLA WALLA**

Join economic development, local government, port, business, tribal, education and workforce leaders in Walla Walla from August 8-10 to gain new tools and insight for economic development in your community. This summer's Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) conference, dubbed Economic Vitality in Action: From Wheatfields to Main Street, includes an early bird savings for those who register by July 19. An agenda is coming soon. More details: <https://bit.ly/3NQe52f>

### **REGISTRATION OPEN FOR WWA WORKFORCE: STRONGER TOGETHER 2023**

Registration is open and breakout session proposals are being sought for the Washington Workforce Association's fall conference, "Stronger Together," to be held Nov. 14-16 in Tacoma. 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. [Learn more](#) and [register now](#).

**June 1, 2023**

### **HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL MEETS JUNE 22 IN PORT ANGELES**

The Health Workforce Council, staffed by the Workforce Board, is holding an in-person meeting from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on June 22 at Peninsula College in Port Angeles. Please note: Event registration is requested by June 9. Also, there are two planned virtual pre-meetings on June 6 and June 13. Council members will, among other things, develop

strategic priorities that guide the council's direction over the next five years and identify issues to explore in developing the council's upcoming annual report. Register and get more meeting details at: <http://bit.ly/42gNSxC>

### **NEW WORKFORCE SYSTEM POSTER AVAILABLE NOW**

The Workforce Board's popular workforce system poster is freshly updated and ready for 2023. Make sure to order copies of this handy overview of Washington's largest, publicly funded workforce development programs, including participant employment rates and earnings, federal and state funding totals, and a list of administering agencies and providers. The poster, printed this year in cheery yellow, is also known as "America's favorite matrix," at least among staff. The poster is free and perfect for cubicle and office walls. Email us at [workforce@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:workforce@wtb.wa.gov) to request your own copies. View the poster, including a digital PDF, at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/washington-workforce-system/>

### **MARKLE REPORT INCLUDES CAREER BRIDGE CASE STUDY**

The Markle Foundation has issued a report "Using Data to Strengthen Workforce Training" that includes a case study focused on Career Bridge (see page 18). This report takes a critical look at how other states handle their Eligible Training Provider Lists (ETPL). These lists, required by the U.S. Department of Labor, feature in-demand education programs eligible for federal training dollars. Washington is highlighted as a state that is improving its nationally recognized career-and-education exploration platform, Career Bridge—also home of Washington's ETPL. The Workforce Board is leveraging an additional \$1.4 million in legislative funding from the 2023 session to continue modernizing this public-facing tool that is used in K-12 classrooms and WorkSource centers across the state. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3WX5Jcd>

### **NOMINATE EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE AND RETAIN WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Washington state Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment is accepting nominations for the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Governor's Employer Awards. These awards honor and celebrate the contributions of Washington's employers in recruiting, hiring and advancing workers with disabilities. The program honors employers of all sizes in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. It also honors employers who support youth with disabilities through employment preparation and job skills training. Deadline to submit nominations is July 28. Get more details at: <https://bit.ly/43gcBU3>

### **WORKFORCE BOARD NOTIFIES WAVE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Students who applied for the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) were notified by email last week about whether they received this popular award that celebrates career and technical education and the value of real-world, hands-on learning. Some 108 students from across Washington were selected for the 2023 award,

representing 45 legislative districts. Among the winners, 78 are graduating high school seniors and 30 are community and technical college students. This merit-based award pays up to \$4,500 per year, for two years, for those attending a public two-year college, or up to \$5,200 per year, for two years, for those attending a four-year college. More details: <https://wtb.wa.gov/wave/>

**May 1, 2023**

### **WORKFORCE BOARD HOLDS RETREAT MAY 4-5**

The Workforce Board is holding its annual retreat this Thursday and Friday at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma. The two primary goals for the retreat are to identify the strategic priorities for the state's 2024-2028 strategic workforce plan "Talent and Prosperity for All," and to begin to develop the Board's 2024 legislative agenda. The Board, along with agency staff, will be traveling across the state in the coming months to talk with a wide range of communities and stakeholders. This ground-level feedback will be incorporated into the guiding plan, before it is submitted to the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education in the spring of 2024. More details: <https://bit.ly/3KIJqqp>

### **NEW WORKFORCE SYSTEM POSTER AVAILABLE NOW**

The Workforce Board's popular workforce system poster is freshly updated and ready for 2023. Make sure to order copies of this handy overview of Washington's largest, publicly funded workforce development programs, including participant employment rates and earnings, federal and state funding totals, and a list of administering agencies and providers. The poster, printed this year in cheery yellow, is also known as "America's favorite matrix," at least among staff. The poster is free and perfect for cubicle and office walls. Email us at [workforce@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:workforce@wtb.wa.gov) to request your own copies. View the poster, including a digital PDF, at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/planning-programs/washington-workforce-system/>

### **WORKFORCE BOARD SEEKS OPINIONS ON LONG-TERM CARE INDUSTRY**

The Workforce Board has issued a short survey on Washington's long-term care industry in an attempt to identify challenges and create a new vision for the industry. Your response will help guide policy development recommendations for this issue. In 2022, the Legislature tasked the Workforce Board with addressing staffing concerns of long-term care employers, including the development of an apprenticeship program that helps move front-line Home Care Aides and Nursing Assistant-Certified staff along a pathway to becoming a licensed practical nurse. Read more about this project: <https://wtb.wa.gov/long-term-care/>. Take the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6MYFFCB>.

## **ANEW HOSTS DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION SUMMIT MAY 11**

ANEW, dedicated to the advancement of women and people of color in career pathways such as manufacturing and construction, is holding a summit May 11 at the DoubleTree hotel near SeaTac. This is ANEW's seventh annual summit focused on diversity and inclusion. The summit will look at targeted recruitment and retaining of workers through mentorship programs, along with worker psychological safety, with a focus on gender-based violence. Register and get more details at: <https://conta.cc/428yeFD>

## **REGISTRATION OPEN FOR WA-ACTE SUMMER CONFERENCE**

Register now for the annual Washington Association for Career and Technical Education conference in Spokane, slated for Aug. 6-9. The Workforce Board is among the sponsors of this multi-day conference aimed at CTE teachers and administrators from around the state. Got a presentation you're interested in delivering? Be sure to submit your presentation proposal by May 19. More details: <https://www.wa-acte.org/summer>

**April 10, 2023**

## **WORKFORCE BOARD HOLDS RETREAT MAY 4-5**

The Workforce Board is holding its annual retreat in early May at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma. But right now we're simply asking you to save the date—May 4-5—as we finalize the meeting details and the agenda. The two primary goals for the retreat are to identify the strategic priorities for the update of the state's strategic workforce plan "Talent and Prosperity for All," and to begin to develop the Board's 2024 legislative agenda. The Board, along with agency staff, will be traveling across the state in the coming months to talk with a wide range of communities and stakeholders. This ground-level feedback will be incorporated into the guiding plan, before it is submitted to the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education in the spring of 2024. More details coming soon at: <https://bit.ly/3KIJqpp>

## **WHERE ARE YOU GOING CAREER GUIDES—ORDER YOURS TODAY!**

The Workforce Board's popular (and free!) *Where Are You Going?* career guides are packed with Washington-specific occupation and labor market info, and ready to distribute to WorkSource centers, middle and high schools, colleges and universities, community-based organizations, libraries, and more! The guide—which was updated just last year—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/3zGVqOv>

## **SOUTH CENTRAL WORKFORCE REBRANDS**

South Central Workforce has dropped "Development Council" from its name as part of a rebranding effort that also includes new email addresses, a new masthead, and an updated website and social media. This local workforce board oversees workforce development programs, services, and activities for Klickitat, Kittitas, Skamania, and Yakima Counties. From now on, use this email format to contact SCW staff: [firstname.lastname@scworkforce.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@scworkforce.org).

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SKILLSUSA COMPETITION IN LAKEWOOD**

Help support the state-level SkillsUSA competition by volunteering as a judge for portions of the leadership competition from 1-6 p.m., Friday, April 14 at Clover Park Technical College. The AGC Education Foundation is seeking 18 volunteers. Volunteers will interview students using preset questions and score students on their presentation and professionalism. More info: <https://www.constructionfoundation.org/give-back/volunteer/> or contact Sarah Patterson at [spatterson@agcwa.com](mailto:spatterson@agcwa.com).

## **VOLUNTEERS ALSO NEEDED FOR WAVE SCHOLARSHIP**

Washington's top career and technical education (CTE) students need your help! This year, more than 250 CTE students applied for the [Washington Award for Vocational Excellence](#) (WAVE) scholarship, which pays up to two years of college tuition. The Workforce Board seeks volunteers to review this year's applications. We need people from business, labor, education, community organizations, and more. Contact us at [wave@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:wave@wtb.wa.gov) to get started!

**March 22, 2023**

## **BOARD TO HEAR FROM BUILDING TRADES APPRENTICESHIP PANEL**

The Workforce Board is holding a hybrid meeting Thursday, March 23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Olympia and will hear from a building trades apprenticeship panel that includes highlights on how these apprenticeships relate to the state's strategic plan for workforce development, Talent and Prosperity for All (TAP). The TAP plan is being updated this year and the Board is actively soliciting input from stakeholders to incorporate key workforce and education policies and strategies. The Board will also hear from National Governors Association staff on federal legislation impacting workforce development. The Board may also take action on approving a new role in resolving workforce system disputes and setting minimum hours for WorkSource employment center hours of operation. More: <https://bit.ly/3LC0qLl>

## **HEALTH WORKFORCE COUNCIL ALSO MEETS THURSDAY**

The Health Workforce Council, staffed by the Workforce Board, meets (virtually) from 9

a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, March 23. Council members will hear from several speakers about Washington's health careers pathway landscape. The Council will also learn about higher education enrollment trends from the Washington Student Achievement Council, and get more details on health program completion/graduation numbers gathered by Workforce Board research staff. The Council will also have an opportunity to dig in on the Council's direction in 2023 and beyond. More: <https://bit.ly/3LHr4Tc>

### **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, and makes that information available to educators, policymakers, and others. There is an additional module for behavioral health facilities, with requests details on challenges in the behavioral health sector, including educational background preferences for new hires, clinical supervision challenges and procedures, and regulatory changes needed related to clinical supervision. 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 data collection will be open through mid-April. More: <https://wa.sentinelnetwork.org/>

### **ADVANCE CTE RELAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO MODERNIZE CAREER CLUSTERS**

Advance CTE has announced the relaunch of an initiative to modernize the National Career Clusters Framework. This framework serves as an organizing tool for Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, curriculum design and instruction. There are 16 Career Clusters in the National Career Clusters Framework, representing 79 Career Pathways to help learners navigate their way to greater success in college and careers. The framework also functions as a useful guide in developing programs of study bridging secondary and postsecondary systems and for creating individual student plans of study for a complete range of career options. More: <https://careertech.org/the-framework>

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES INVITED TO APPLY FOR YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM**

High school students with disabilities can apply to the 21st annual Youth Leadership Forum to learn leadership, citizenship and personal skills. About 30 students will attend this free overnight camp, which will be at the Dumas Bay Center in Federal Way from July 30 to Aug. 4. The Governor's Committee on Disability Issues & Employment (GCDE) is accepting applications through May 31. There is no cost to parents for their student to attend. The Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is designed for students with disabilities who want to be or are leaders in their schools and communities. Eligible youth are: High

school juniors and seniors ages 16 to 21 who have a disability and students up to age 21 who are receiving transition services. The Youth Leadership Forum is a project of the GCDE with funding from the state's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

<https://bit.ly/3TByiu2>

## **March 1, 2023**

### **WAVE AWARD: HELP SPREAD THE WORD TO CTE STUDENTS!**

The Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) scholarship application is open for 2023—and the deadline to apply is just a few weeks away. The award recognizes high-performing career and technical education (CTE) students at both the high school and community-and-technical college level. The award covers up to two years of tuition, with the amount of the tuition based on the tuition charged by the institution students will be attending—with minimum awards set at \$4,500 per year, and a maximum of up to \$11,700 per year. WAVE is administered by the Workforce Board in collaboration with the Washington Student Achievement Council, which handles the disbursement of funds. The application deadline is March 17. See the Workforce Board's WAVE page for details: <https://wtb.wa.gov/wave/>

### **STAY ON TOP OF WORKFORCE BILLS WITH LEGISLATIVE TRACKER**

Workforce Board staff are still busy tracking workforce bills throughout the 2023 Legislative session. View these bills and materials at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/about-us/workforce-board-legislative-tracker/>

### **APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING CONNECTED WITH SAFER WORKPLACES**

A first-of-its-kind study from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries concludes that apprenticeship program growth could reduce serious worker injuries and workers' compensation claims. The results of the study come at a time of expansion for registered apprenticeship programs in Washington. There is record involvement, with 22,000 workers currently participating in apprenticeships across about 200 registered programs in the state. While construction trades such as carpenter, ironworker, and electrician have the most active participants, there are growing programs in the high-tech, aerospace, and medical assistant fields. More: <https://bit.ly/3m9GF3c>

### **ERDC PROVIDES HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OUTCOMES DASHBOARD**

The state's Education Research and Data Center has published a High School Graduate Outcomes Dashboard that now includes data for the 2021 Washington public high school graduates and also includes 2021-2022 postsecondary enrollments. The dashboard was created to provide information about postsecondary education (enrollment, persistence, completion) and workforce metrics (hours worked, wages) of Washington's public high school graduates. More info at: <https://bit.ly/3Y3yYst>.

## **BIAW GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS NOW OPEN**

The Building Industry Association of Washington, representing roughly 8,000 members in the residential construction industry, provides scholarships to students who have demonstrated a passion and commitment to developing a career in the home building industry. They also offer grants to organizations with programs in construction-related fields of study, residential construction career training, continuing education, apprenticeship, and skills assessment services, and technical training programs educating tomorrow's home builders. Applications must be submitted and/or postmarked by May 1. <https://www.biaw.com/scholarships-and-grants/>

**Feb. 2, 2023**

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

The Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) scholarship application is open for 2023! The award recognizes high-performing career and technical education (CTE) students at both the high school and community-and-technical college level. The award covers up to two years of tuition, according to the tuition charged by the institution students will attend— with minimum awards set at \$4,500 per year, and a maximum of up to \$11,700 per year. WAVE is administered by the Workforce Board in collaboration with the Washington Student Achievement Council, which handles the disbursement of funds. The application deadline is March 17. In addition to completing the application, housed on theWashBoard.org, students will need to submit two letters of recommendation and ensure their CTE teacher or instructor signs off on their eligibility via a certification form. See the Workforce Board's WAVE page for details:

<https://wtb.wa.gov/wave/>

## **WORKFORCE BOARD MEETS FEBRUARY 23**

The Workforce Board will meet Thursday, February 23 to discuss state strategic planning, hear a review on how well the state has met its workforce performance goals, get a legislative update on key workforce bills, and hear about potential updates to federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act policies. More details and an agenda soon. <https://wtb.wa.gov/>

## **ERDC LAUNCHES P20W DATA SYSTEM STUDY**

The state's Education Research and Data Center has launched a P20W Data Systems Study to see if there are opportunities to improve the technical tools and processes used to collect, organize, store, and prepare P20W data for analysis. ERDC houses a statewide longitudinal data system of information on Washington students, including data about their experiences from preschool to Grade 20 to the workforce (P20W). This P20W data is collected by [data contributors](#) across the state who securely share it with ERDC, so that researchers can conduct cross-sector research that informs policy- and



decision-making at the state level and within partnering institutions. For more information about this study, check out the [website](#) and [one-page handout](#).

### **COMMERCE PROMOTES MANUFACTURING GROWTH GRANTS**

The state's Department of Commerce is promoting a grant program designed to increase the number of manufacturing and research & development jobs in Washington. Through the Evergreen Manufacturing Growth grant program, some \$2 million in grants will be awarded to eligible manufacturing and research and development businesses as well as organizations defined as innovation clusters in the funding application. Each grantee will be eligible for a grant of \$200,000-\$400,000. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate the availability of capital investment or matching funds to support a significant business expansion or proposed cutting-edge development work. Submissions will be evaluated according to their ability to generate manufacturing and research & development jobs as well as their strategic alignment with the state's key sectors. More: <https://bit.ly/3JuDmNL>

### **REGISTER FOR MARCH 9 EMPOWER WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

Registration is now open for the Empower Women's Leadership Conference in Seattle. The conference is supported by the Construction Center of Excellence at Renton Technical College. Registration info at: <https://constructioncenterofexcellence.com/empower>

**Jan. 12, 2023**

### **STAY ON TOP OF WORKFORCE BILLS WITH LEGISLATIVE TRACKER**

Follow workforce bills throughout the 2023 Legislative session. View bills our Workforce Board staff are tracking, along with presentations (we've got some good ones!) and materials at: <https://wtb.wa.gov/about-us/workforce-board-legislative-tracker/>

### **WORKFORCE BOARD ISSUES NEW BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REPORT**

The Workforce Board, in conjunction with the Behavioral Health Workforce Advisory Committee, has issued a new report that addresses increasingly critical worker shortages in behavioral health professions in Washington. The report shows that low wages, high student debt levels, and the cost of education are driving shortages and turnover among counselors, social workers, psychologists, and other behavioral health workers. The Workforce Board staffs and manages the committee and has led efforts to address this issue since 2016. Employers, lawmakers, and others continue to tackle this challenge (see next news item). Also, read our news release: <https://bit.ly/3XmeN9s> and report at: <https://bit.ly/3Xlkmou>.

## **HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY LAUNCHES BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN**

The Washington State Health Care Authority recently launched the second phase of its behavioral health career recruitment campaign. The goal is to increase interest in and ultimately grow the behavioral health workforce in Washington state. This includes a web portal that features testimonials from real behavioral health workers on why they enjoy working in the field. Check it out: <https://www.startyourpath.org/>

## **NEW STUDENT COMMUNICATORS JOIN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The State Board of Education has welcomed two high school juniors (one from Puyallup and one from Selah) to serve as agency's first student communicators, helping to tell stories about education through writing and videos, while learning firsthand how government works. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3jZkIYU>. SBE is also seeking a current high school sophomore from western Washington to serve a two-year term as a student representative for SBE and the Association of Washington Student Leaders. The Board alternates recruitment for student members between Eastern and Western Washington each year. Applications are due March 31. More: <https://bit.ly/3vTEUZF>

## **NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED FOR RE-ENTRY COUNCIL**

Janel McFeat, known for her human rights work, is the new executive director of Washington's Statewide Re-entry Council. McFeat created a nationally recognized re-entry program using evidence-based practices and most recently served as program manager for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's re-entry program. She is also a Jamestown S'Klallam descendant. The Legislature created the Re-entry Council in 2016 to improve public safety and outcomes for formerly incarcerated people. More: <https://bit.ly/3QFdeBm>