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New Website Shows Diverse Career Opportunities in the Robust Manufacturing Industry

Portland-Vancouver Metro Area, (Jan. 18, 2018) — A coalition of 20 companies, including Madden Industrial, Tosoh Quartz, Benchmade, SEH America, Columbia Machine and economic development organizations such as the City of Gresham, Clackamas County and Prosper Portland have funded and planned a campaign with the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaboration (CWWC) and regional WorkSource centers to raise awareness of the wide variety of manufacturing careers, exciting products that are made locally, and to recruit more workers to the field.

“The metro area has a huge number of manufacturing companies and many are hiring. Employees are in high demand,” says Jesse Aronson, Project Manager for the Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative. “The staff shortage has come from a large number of retiring workers in recent years, leaving the industry in need of employees at all levels.”

The public-private partnership funded an interactive website allowing individuals to click through scenes to see a broad spectrum of products made in the greater Portland-Southwest Washington region. Job seekers can access direct links to sponsoring companies’ jobs pages showing current manufacturing openings. Visitors have access to manufacturing training and employment services funded through local WorkSource centers.

“The manufacturing industry is often overlooked by job seekers who may think of dangerous and dirty work environments or boring assembly lines. In reality, today’s manufacturing industry includes sophisticated technology and processes in a variety of settings, where companies make everything from potato chips to computer chips,” says Aaron Fox, *President of OMEP*.

The new web pages aim to highlight the types of work environments and variety of job types in manufacturing, while also showcasing interesting products, manufacturers and local employment opportunities in the field.

Visit www.CareersNW.org/Manufacturing to explore more.

The website also showcases other high-growth industries such as healthcare, construction and technology.

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The Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC) is a partnership that delivers a unified approach to serve industry, support economic development and guide public workforce investments in the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area. Members are the Clackamas Workforce Partnership, Workforce Southwest Washington and Worksystems. <http://www.workforcecollaborative.org/>

Clackamas Workforce Partnership is a nonprofit organization which serves as an advocate for workforce development within Clackamas County and the State of Oregon. Our mission is to address critical workforce, educational, and training challenges, and develop a skilled workforce that meets the needs of businesses and strengthens the local economy of Clackamas County. Learn more at www.clackamasworkforce.org.

Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW), a nonprofit organization founded in 2002, contributes to regional economic growth by providing investments and resources to improve the skills and education of the workforce in Clark, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties. WSW helps businesses find and hire the employees they need and provides people the skills, education and training to find work or advance in their careers. WSW partners with employers, community colleges and universities, labor groups, government and economic development agencies, high schools, community and nonprofit organizations. Learn more at www.workforcesw.org.

Worksystems is the Workforce Development Board for the City of Portland, Multnomah and Washington counties. Worksystems is a nonprofit agency that accelerates economic growth by pursuing and investing resources to improve the quality of the workforce. Learn more at www.worksystems.org.