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*Our mission is to develop a highly skilled workforce that creates sustained economic prosperity in Clackamas County.*



## Newsletter | Fall 2015

### Pacific Northwest Employment Forum

On September 28th, Amy Black, WorkSource Liaison with Clackamas Workforce Partnership, presented a workshop at the 3rd Annual Pacific Northwest Employment Forum. The Forum was hosted by the Association for People Supporting Employment First (APSE) which works to advance employment and self-sufficiency for all people with disabilities through advocacy and education. The majority of the participants in the Forum were professionals from Oregon and Washington who provide career coaching and job development to individuals with disabilities to help them find living wage employment in the community.



The hour-long workshop had two main objectives: first, to help participants gain practical information about what services are provided at WorkSource and second, to provide opportunities to build connections and bridges between the WorkSource system and disability specific employment services. Over 25 participants engaged in a lively discussion about available services, strategies for successfully accessing WorkSource, and how our systems can better align our resources. It was an exciting and successful opportunity to build bridges that will create more effective employment services for job-seekers of all abilities.

### Local Strategic Plan Update

Clackamas Workforce Partnership (CWP) continues with the strategic planning process to develop the

### Manufacturing Day 2015

On October 2nd, high school students from across Clackamas County came together with local businesses, economic development, community based organizations, education and workforce system partners, to take part in Manufacturing Day. This event has become one of the most collaborative and diverse efforts to showcase the manufacturing industry within the region. Over 500 students took part throughout the county and seized the opportunity to become more engaged in the strong and wide-ranging manufacturing field. The event included various activities such as site visits/business tours, informational interviews, and access to industry leaders in order to increase student awareness about potential future involvement within the industry.



Canby High School, Clackamas Academy of Industrial Sciences (CAIS), and Sabin-Schellenberg all took part in providing the youth access to the numerous manufacturing employers in the region, ranging in their scope of work from Metals & Machinery Manufacturing, High Tech, and Wholesale Trade. The response from the business community and the education partners alike was beyond what anyone in the region could have ever expected, with students being provided access to technical industry leaders and innovators ranging from medical equipment to in-flight aviation systems, just to name a few.

“Manufacturing day is a great opportunity for students. They get to see first-hand how the skills and knowledge acquired during manufacturing and

2016-2020 Strategic Plan for our local area. This Strategic Plan will guide regional solutions to workforce and industry challenges. CWP board members were included in the planning process at a meeting in March as well as most recently at the October 15th board meeting and strategic planning session. The board provided considerable feedback at that meeting which was captured into a more finalized draft.

Additionally, local stakeholders were invited to attend stakeholder meetings held on November 16th at Gladstone High School and November 18th at Clackamas Community College. These meetings began with a business panel which spoke to workforce challenges within their industries. After the business panel, attendees participated in a facilitated discussion, provided feedback on the plan, and shared how community partners will engage with the work of the board.



If you have any questions about our development of a new

strategic plan, please contact Amy Oakley at [amy.oakley@clackamasworkforce.org](mailto:amy.oakley@clackamasworkforce.org) or 503-657-6644.

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## Message from the Executive Director

Looking back on the events of these past few months, we have been busy. Our continued evolution as an organization brings with it a steady stream of new challenges, new solutions, new relationships, and hope. In August, we shored up our team with a new hire. Greg Goloborodko joined the team at Clackamas Workforce Partnership, bringing with him a wide range of skills and experience to serve Clackamas County. He will be a critical lead in our youth initiatives and sector strategies for the Tech and Agriculture/Food Processing industries.



The 2015 Oregon Legislative Session wrapped up in July with greater investments to Career Tech Education and Higher Education. Though all of the workforce initiatives were not approved, there was

engineering classes directly relate to those used in industry,” said Todd Roberts, a Canby High School Technology and Manufacturing teacher. “In a half-day field trip, students get to see many manufacturing and engineering career options that they may never have been unaware of. Students come back to their classroom excited about what they have learned on the tours. For some students, this experience has formed their own career path choices.”

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## Housing Works Success Story

In July 2012, the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan region received a Department of Labor Workforce Innovation Fund grant to support Housing Works. Building on a promising pilot, this collaborative program connected Workforce Development Boards and Public Housing Authorities in four counties in Oregon and Washington. In Clackamas County, Clackamas Workforce Partnership contracted with Community Solutions of Clackamas County to help 50 Housing Authority of Clackamas County housing residents gain the life and employment skills necessary to attain self-sufficiency.

JH participated in the Housing Works grant manufacturing cohort. He came in with a modified high school diploma and had never had a paying job. His only experience was volunteering with his church. JH had an excellent attitude, was incredibly coachable and motivated. He scored well on his initial skills review assessment and achieved his National Career Readiness Certification. He registered for the Manufacturing Technology Certificate program at Clackamas Community College. Midway through his second quarter of coursework his counselor and instructor contacted the Housing Works Case Manager to inform her that the participant was struggling to understand concepts, follow directions, and was physically too slow to be competitive for a manufacturing job. After a team meeting an Employment Training Skills Certificate was designed for him so JH could complete his courses and earn a certificate. A cooperative work experience was required to complete his certificate, and the Housing Works Case Manager was able to set the participant up in a work experience/internship with a local manufacturer. JH was a model employee, eager to learn new machinery and was able to complete tasks in the time required of the employer. The employer offered JH a full-time job at the end of the work experience. However JH turned the offer down. During his coursework, JH had become a relative's certified care-giver and began receiving pay for these services. The Housing Works Case Manager stepped in and

a continuation of State funding to the Back to Work Oregon program, sector strategies and local board support.

Oh, and then there is the little thing of our name change to Clackamas Workforce Partnership with a shiny, new logo! We are excited about the re-branding as we move into a new world of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and State Workforce redesign.

As we look to the future, Clackamas Workforce Partnership will continue to seek out new ways to build on earlier successes and challenge our workforce system to do better!

had several conversations with the participant hoping to encourage him to accept the employment offer with this leading manufacturer in order to earn experience outside of his home. Upon further consideration and additional conversations with the employer, JH eventually accepted part-time employment as a production worker while also caring for his relative part-time. JH has made great strides with the help of the Housing Works program.

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