



Newsletter | March 2012

Hello, Stacey !

Highlights

- Message from the Executive Director
- Workforce Investment Council to Apply for Two Innovation Grants
- Workforce Investment Council Moves into Priority of Service

Statistics

- Since July 1st, 2011, 3764 new jobseekers have been enrolled through WorkSource Clackamas.
- Since July 1st, 2011, 547 youth have been served through C-TEC.

Also In This Issue

- Regional Career Expo
- 3rd Annual Disability Resource Fair

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

Message from the Executive Director



Here are some attention-getting statistics:

- *Nationwide, an estimated 600,000 manufacturing jobs are going unfilled*
- *It's not unusual to hear that manufacturers are interviewing 60 to 100 applicants to find one skilled worker*
- *In the 1980s, U.S. manufacturing was "80% brawn and 20% brains, but now it's 10% brawn and 90% brains"*

Not only are there *a bunch* of unfilled positions, but it's expected that the number will increase over the next three to five years as older workers retire. In 2010 the number of jobs in manufacturing *increased* after 12 years of decline. In January of this year alone 50,000 manufacturing jobs were added to the economy.

So what's the problem? There's a need for people with the *right* skills. There's a need for our society to educate our young people about exactly what manufacturing is and what it isn't. There are opportunities for people to re-skill and begin a new career in manufacturing. The workforce has some great opportunities for family wage jobs working in manufacturing if individuals seize them. This exciting sector is experiencing a serious labor

The Workforce Investment Council is funded in part by the Workforce Investment Act.

The Workforce Investment Council is an equal opportunity employer.

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

shortage.

We are working to address this problem in our area! In the world of workforce development there are several efforts underway. The most exciting and recent news is the awarding of two grants to the metro area that focus on training people for middle level manufacturing jobs. These two grants total \$9.5 million for the SW Washington, Portland and Clackamas areas. These grants have a focus on assisting job seekers with new skill development and On-The Job training **funding for employers.**

In addition to this good news we are working on two other manufacturing industry-focused grant applications. We're working closely with our partners at Manufacturing 21 to better understand the workforce needs in *our area* and how best to meet them, and we are doing this in collaboration with our local Workforce Investment Board partners in Multnomah and Washington Counties and SW Washington.

We will get a handle on this issue and the workforce system will continue to address and fill the needs of employers in the manufacturing industry. Awareness is the first step, and we are **very aware!**

As always, if you have comments, ideas or concerns [*please feel free to contact me.*](#)

Be well, Kim

To read a full report on manufacturing workforce, [click here.](#)

Workforce Investment Council to Apply for Innovation Grants

The Workforce Investment Council is participating in two Workforce Innovation grants being funded by the Department of Labor. The State will be the lead on one of the grants, where the Workforce Investment Council was chosen as one of three regions to be a pilot site to enhance Workforce Integration and industry sector engagement. For the second grant, we will be partnering with WorkSystems Inc. and SW Washington Workforce Development



Council to build a connection between the workforce system and the Housing Authorities in the area. This grant will serve housing authority clients who have barriers to finding and maintaining living wage employment, in order to move to self-sufficiency. Both grants are due by March 22, 2012.

Regional Career Expo

Join us for the largest regional career event in the Portland Oregon metro and SW Washington areas at the Oregon Convention Center. On Wednesday, March 7th from 9am - 1pm local employers representing a variety of industries will be present to discuss their organizations and potential careers. This event is a great opportunity for companies to come together with well qualified job seekers from the region. A variety of workshops will also be offered to attendees such as “The Myths of Staffing Services”, “Resume Critique”, “How to Get Your Foot in the Door” and many more. The event is sponsored by the Workforce Investment Council, WorkSystems Inc., Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council and the local WorkSource centers.



For more information please [click here](#).

Workforce Investment Council Moves into Priority of Service



As the Workforce Investment Council continues to assist people in securing family-wage jobs, our adult program's funding is limited for the rest of this program year. When this happens, we move into *priority of service*. The priority for adult participants to receive intensive and training services is as follows:

1. First priority shall be given to Veterans and/or eligible spouses residing in Clackamas County who are recipients of public assistance or are low income individuals.
2. Second priority shall be given to recipients of public assistance and other low-income individuals residing in Clackamas County.
3. Third priority shall be given to veterans and/or eligible spouses residing in Clackamas County.
4. Fourth priority shall be given to Clackamas County residents.

Priority of service will continue until June 30, 2012. If you have

any questions about this, please contact [Jan Filgas](#).

3rd Annual Disability Resource Fair



Northwest Family Services, the Disability Provider Network of Clackamas County and the Workforce Investment Council, are hosting the 3rd Annual Disability Resource Fair on Wednesday, March 21, 2012 from 9am - 1pm at Clackamas Community College's Gregory Forum building. Adults and youth with a disability (physical, mental health, learning, etc.), family of someone with a disability and anyone working with someone with a disability are encouraged to attend. Representatives from area agencies will be in attendance with information on resources and services available in the community for education, training, job search and basic needs. Workshops about financial literacy and tax preparation will also be offered.

For more information on this important event, please [click here](#).