

CREATING CONNECTIONS: Education | Employment | Economic Development



2009 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





MISSION

To prepare and promote a highly-skilled and adaptive workforce for a healthy, sustainable economy in Southwest Washington.

GOALS

Fully engage Southwest Washington youth and adults in the regional economy.

Provide avenues for residents to prepare for careers that lead to self-sufficiency.

Provide Southwest Washington industries with a skilled workforce.

Foster a responsive workforce system that offers services in the time, place, and structure required by business and workers.



CREATING CONNECTIONS

Dear Friends,

In the last year we all have experienced the effects of a severe economic downturn. Unemployment is significant in our region, bringing devastating consequences to families and businesses alike.

Our WorkSource centers have been busier than ever, with three times the number of visitors over the same time period last year. Enrollments at local educational institutions are at an all-time high. Those employers who are hiring are seeing a glut of applicants, yet not always finding those with the right skill sets.

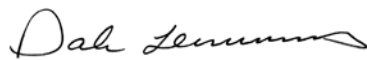
We have been fortunate as a community to garner additional resources to help train the unemployed, put our residents back to work, and develop a workforce with the skills to meet our employers' needs, now and in the future.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) passed by Congress provided SWWDC with \$5.0 million to train low-income adults and dislocated workers and to provide disadvantaged youth with work experiences so that they can discover a career path, build a resume, and pursue education, training, or employment. Additional funding sources have allowed our community's workforce partners to help residents develop skills and explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields to meet the increasing demand for workers with these skills.

The SWWDC has worked closely with its community and bi-state partners to create the connections between education, employment, and economic development that will allow our communities to regain their footing. Together, our goal has been to provide a highly-skilled workforce that supports a healthy and sustainable regional economy.

In this report, you will learn about our community connections and how these partnerships have changed lives and helped support our regional economy.

Sincerely,



Dale Lemmons
President, Interstate Wood Products
SWWDC Board Chair 2008-2010



Lisa Nisenfeld
Executive Director
SWWDC



CREATING CONNECTIONS: Making ARRA Work for Southwest Washington

SWWDC is working with community partners in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties to administer \$5.0 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding which is supporting a summer youth employment program and training for low-income adults and dislocated workers.





VHA Residents Being Trained to Become Weatherization Specialists

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), millions of dollars are being funneled to local governments to weatherize low-income homes. This increased funding has created greater demand for weatherization specialists and energy auditors to perform these services.

To fill this specific workforce need, SWWDC partnered with the City of Vancouver, Clark College, Clark County, Northwest Service Academy, Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA), WorkSource, and RichArt, a family-owned Vancouver-based weatherization contractor, to train a dozen VHA residents to become weatherization specialists and energy auditors in Clark County.

RichArt agreed to hire and train individuals to weatherize homes of low-income residents as part of its weatherization contract with Clark County. Training began in the fall of 2009 and included a classroom component at Clark College combined with on-the-job training.

By leveraging the available funds to create a training opportunity, multiple goals have been realized. Not only are homes being weatherized, but people in need of marketable skills are being trained and finding employment.



ARRA FUNDS PROVIDING ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR ADULTS AND DISLOCATED WORKERS

SWWDC received \$2.7 million in ARRA funds to further aid its adult and dislocated worker populations. The majority of these funds are targeted at increasing the number of training slots available at local area training providers.

During troubled economic times, community colleges and other training organizations are overwhelmed by the significant increase in enrollment created by layoffs and closed businesses. In an effort to alleviate some of these pressures, SWWDC partnered with Lower Columbia College, Clark College, West Coast Training, NECA/IBEW Electrical Training Center, and WorkSource to expand training capacity for more than 300 eligible adults and dislocated workers.

ARRA funds pay the costs of hiring the additional faculty and staff necessary to add more classes in these programs while the training provides participants with a career pathway and necessary support services to help ensure their success.

To further assure that this effort supports both job seekers and the region's industries, the new training slots are in high-demand areas such as health care, manufacturing, diesel technology, equipment maintenance, and energy auditing. These programs run June 29, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

SYEP: CONNECTING YOUTH WITH WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE

SYEP BY THE NUMBERS

Program Funds: **\$2.2 Million***

Wages Earned (including taxes): **\$1.1 Million**

Jobs Created: **696**

Total Hours Worked: **106,796**

Organizations offering jobs: **126**

Different Worksites: **185**

Youth making work readiness gains: **93%**

** Consistent with federal guidelines, a portion of these funds will be used to continue Phase 2 of the SYEP October 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010. Approximately 60–70 additional youth will participate in work experiences during this period.*

SWWDC'S SYEP PARTNERS

Educational Service District 112

Employers Overload

Longview Goodwill

Lower Columbia Community Action Program (LCCAP)

USDA Coalition of Minority Employees

Washington State University–AHAS Program

Wahkiakum Port #2

Providing Young People a Chance to Work, Learn and Earn a Paycheck

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) received \$2.2 million of funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and was administered by the SWWDC and its partners. The program created 696 summer jobs for 14- to 24-year-old low-income youth with barriers to employment with the focus on developing a strong work ethic.

Young people participating in the program received six weeks of paid work experience and training at more than 126 different worksites in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties. The majority of the youth were paid \$8.55 per hour, collectively earning more than \$1.1 million during the six-week program. Approximately 10 percent of the youth served as youth supervisors, earning \$10 per hour.

Program participants spent 30 hours per week working and learning. They worked for 24 hours, then attended work readiness classes and activities for the remaining six hours. Work readiness activities provided vital skills, including training in appropriate workplace attire and behaviors, communications and conflict resolution, team building, financial management, workplace rights and policies, and job search skills.

An overwhelming majority of the employers who have been involved with the SYEP program feel very positive about the benefits not only to the youth, but to their companies as well.



“This turned out to be a very successful program from our perspective,” said Jim Quintana, manager of public affairs at C-TRAN. “The kids took care of a number of things we’ve been needing to do but simply couldn’t find the time for. And for the kids, they were in their jobs long enough to actually accomplish some work – which they could feel good about – and to get comfortable with being in a work environment. It was fun to watch them blossom during their stay here.”

By the end of their six-week program, 93 percent of the participants had achieved gains in work readiness skills. Seventy-four percent of the participants returned to their educational endeavors, which ranged from GED preparation to continuing their pursuit of a college degree. Twenty-five percent of the participants reported that they had secured employment beyond the summer and 65 percent said they would be looking for a job. But across the board, they will take with them the lessons they learned about the real working world. And they will be better prepared to succeed in future jobs.



SYEP Participant Gains Better Understanding of Community Support Efforts

When Sam Rauch noticed a Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) flyer on her way to class at Lower Columbia College (LCC), she decided to call to find out more. Today, she's glad she did.

At the time, Sam was trying to overcome personal challenges. She had dropped out of high school and was essentially homeless, moving from place to place making short stays at the homes of family and friends. But what she didn't lack was motivation and a desire to improve her situation. So when she scored an SYEP position at Longview City Hall, she was determined to make the most of it.

"It was a great opportunity," said Samantha. "The people I worked with were really helpful, and the best part is that I got experience that will help me get an accounting position, which is what I really want to do in the future."

City of Longview Executive Secretary Tamara Larson supervised Samantha and helped her gain as much as possible from her six week assignment.

"Sam was so pleasant and enjoyable to work with," said Tamara. "She asked questions and always followed through. And I think she was surprised to learn that municipal government is run by ordinary people. During the time she worked with us, we saw her office skills and self confidence improve significantly. We felt fortunate to get a person with a great work ethic who we could come to rely upon."



Cowlitz County Commissioner Kathleen Johnson also feels strongly about the benefits of the SYEP program.

"I was very pleased with the program," said Commissioner Johnson. "I'll admit I was skeptical at first. I didn't think six weeks was enough time, but I was wrong. It was enough, and I was able to witness the change that took place in the participants. I was there at the beginning, speaking to them in their work readiness classes.. When I returned for the mock interviews at the end of the program, I was amazed by the change in the group. They had a much better feel for how to navigate the world of business."

Today, with an updated resume and good references, Samantha is continuing her coursework at LCC, working simultaneously toward a high school diploma and an associates degree in accounting.

WORKSOURCE AND COLLEGES CO-LOCATE STAFF TO BETTER SERVE UNEMPLOYED



Thanks to ARRA funding, staff are better able to coordinate resources to support individuals pursuing workforce training.

Four WorkSource staff members have moved to Clark College and Lower Columbia College, working side-by-side with college staff in the financial aid and career offices. This co-location is aimed at improving coordination and integration of resources that fund and support individuals pursuing training at the colleges. Staff from both organizations are learning more about the myriad of workforce development resources available to assist students and job seekers, with a long-term goal of better leveraging these resources.



CREATING CONNECTIONS: Strengthening Our Workforce System

An important aspect of SWWDC's commitment to employment and economic development is its work to respond to the needs of Southwest Washington's business community. From helping to establish high-demand training programs, assisting in the expansion of local companies, or helping local companies find the workers they need to grow, SWWDC and its partners develop creative and effective workforce solutions.



Grants Help Focus Training for Advanced Manufacturing Companies

SWWDC partnered with Clark College, Lower Columbia College (LCC), and four Oregon community colleges to align and leverage educational and training resources across the region to better respond to manufacturers' workforce needs and to streamline the training process for workers.

This project was funded through a \$90,000 Washington State Skill Panel grant and a \$5 million federal, bi-state Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative administered by SWWDC and Worksystems Inc. in Portland, respectively. By working across state lines, the project developed a regional training capacity to effectively address advanced manufacturing companies' workforce needs. It also brought \$126K in additional training investments to Southwest Washington.

More than 50 manufacturers and industry associations provided input on training needs. As a result, the colleges have created a training delivery framework which includes a stackable core manufacturing curriculum that is aligned across colleges and produces workers who understand the manufacturing environment and its processes.

Specialty credentials and pathways are also available throughout the region. Specialties include welding, machining, process technology, pulp and paper manufacturing, electronics, semiconductors, and others as determined by employer needs.



In partnership with Frito Lay and Weyerhaeuser, the SWWDC, Clark College and LCC held two sessions with K-12 educators to share findings and encourage K-12 to promote manufacturing careers and middle skill jobs to students with a goal of building the manufacturing pipeline. Subsequent training investments from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act have been targeted in manufacturing occupations as well.

The importance of building the manufacturing pipeline shouldn't be underestimated. Manufacturing represents a critically important element of our regional economy yet is an industry that is having a hard time finding enough qualified workers. The grants have allowed the SWWDC and its partners to bolster manufacturing training curricula and recruit new trainees, while at the same time respond to specific needs of local area employers.

LRT PROGRAM TRAINS ELECTRICIANS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY INSTALLATIONS

The SWWDC has partnered with the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Electrical Training Center (NIETC) to offer scholarships to eligible Southwest Washington residents for the Limited Renewable Energy Technicians (LRT) apprenticeship program.

The two-year apprenticeship program combines both on-the-job and related classroom training. Education and training includes installations of photovoltaic systems and other renewable energy systems including wind, solar, micro-hydroelectricity, fuel cells, and engine generators for off-grid systems. Funding for up to 30 Southwest Washington residents has been made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Apprentices will work for an electrical contractor for a minimum of 4,000 on-the-job-training hours. Wages are based on a percentage of the current \$20.32 per hour prevailing wage rate — beginning at 50 percent, or \$10.16, and gradually increasing to 80 percent, or \$16.26, as OJT hours are accomplished. People who complete the two-year apprenticeship program will be able to apply these two years towards a full inside electrician's license (a five-year program).

The program seeks to help address the region's increased demand for skilled workers in the energy efficiency and renewable industries. This, coupled with tax incentives to support both employers and individuals, and the onset of baby boomer retirements, is helping fuel the demand for LRT technicians.



PORT OF LONGVIEW GAINS EXPANDED ELEVATOR FACILITIES



Photo courtesy of the Port of Longview

Southwest Washington gained a significant addition to its business community when EGT Development, LLC, made the decision to build a new grain elevator facility at the Port of Longview. According to Cowlitz Economic Development Council President Ted Sprague, the EGC facility represents the largest capital investment project in Cowlitz County in over 10 years.

“EGT is a very important addition to the Port of Longview, and really, to the entire Pacific Northwest,” said Sprague. “This facility will be exporting grain worldwide, creating important new markets for producers not only in Washington, but in Montana, Idaho, and Oregon as well.”

The \$230 million, 38-acre facility is targeted to be operational in November 2011. This project will provide employment for more than 200 construction workers for two years, and following completion, will add 50 full-time employees.

WorkSource Cowlitz/Wakiakum will provide hiring assistance throughout the construction phase of this project, and is working with EGT in its effort to locate, train, and retain its permanent employees.



Helping Build a Career While Solving an Employer's Dilemma

For businesses relocating to Southwest Washington, a key ingredient always is the availability of a skilled workforce.

Connecting as a team leads to win-win opportunities for employers and their workers.

After opening its headquarters in Vancouver, Agave Jeans began working with WorkSource Vancouver Representative Darcy Hoffman to recruit workers for its warehouse operations.

Darcy worked closely with Agave's warehouse manager to set up a JobFit profile and to recruit and interview candidates. Three people were selected to start work in January 2009, including Dan Browning.

Dan, who is on active duty with the Army National Guard, started at an entry level wage in the warehouse. Three months later, Agave's



Dan Browning, Agave Jeans' Warehouse Manager, (facing page and above, center) worked with WorkSource Representative Darcy Hoffman (above, right) to begin at Agave as a warehouse worker and then advance to his current management position. Roxann Townsell (above, left) also worked with WorkSource to find her warehouse position with Agave.

warehouse manager position opened up, and – based on Dan's performance – Agave offered him the position as a "Warehouse Manager-in-Training."

To help prepare Dan for this position, Darcy re-entered the picture, along with WorkSource colleague Tina Cruz and Agave management, to create a "move-up" on-the-job training program for Dan that would benefit both Dan and Agave.

When Dan was offered the manager-in-training position, Agave was able to offer him a pay increase. Unfortunately, even with this new salary Dan was going to have to look for an additional part-time job or a different full-time job that could pay a better wage. Because Dan was honest and shared this information with Agave, they offered to increase his salary even further to keep him. Dan accepted.

As a part of this process, Dan was able to get financial assistance through WorkSource to enable him to obtain his APICS Certification in Production and Inventory Management (CPIM), which was very important to Agave. The OJT and APICS certification assistance provided by WorkSource sealed the deal for Agave and Dan.

This outcome exemplifies the positive results that can be achieved when WorkSource connects with employers and employees to create win-win solutions.

WORKSOURCE PROFILE

WORKSOURCE + DEDICATION + TEAMWORK = NEW CAREER

In 2006, WorkSource Cowlitz/Wakiakum held a Rapid Response meeting designed to help a group of recently dislocated workers from a local supermarket. Donna Hobkirk was a part of that group. It was a fortuitous meeting.

Donna was not familiar with WorkSource prior to the Rapid Response initiative, but after learning what WorkSource had to offer, she enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act Dislocated Workers Program. That was April 2006.

The program made it possible for Donna to attend Lower Columbia College (LCC) and earn an Associate Degree in Business Technology. As a result of her expanded skill set, she now works at Lower Columbia Community Action Program helping others in need.

It sounds simple, but it wasn't. Donna is just one of the many adult and dislocated workers served by WorkSource each year, but there's one thing WorkSource participants who make it all the way to a degree have in common. It's dedication.

"WorkSource and its partners are able to offer excellent opportunities to people who need better quality employment. But it's not automatic. There are challenges to getting into these programs and seeing them all the way through," said Kelso WorkSource Specialist Pam Kedenburg. "People who aren't dedicated will have trouble making it.



Donna Hobkirk (above, right) took advantage of the WIA Dislocated Workers Program to begin a new career. Donna worked with WorkSource Cowlitz/Wakiakum Representative Pam Kedenburg (above, left) and earned an Associate Degree in Business Technology at LCC.

"I was especially proud of Donna, and also of the way we were able to work with LCC to help her dedication pay off."

Donna's perspective echoes the message of opportunity that WorkSource represents.

"If it hadn't been for the WorkSource program, I wouldn't have been able to go to school. Being laid off was very disconcerting, but WorkSource was always supportive. And the people at LCC were great. I was able to get a work-study position, and my counselor at the school and Pam at WorkSource were always there for me. It's just awesome to have a diploma. My career is now at a whole different level."

CREATING CONNECTIONS: Building the STEM Pipeline

One of our region's most pressing needs is a workforce prepared for careers that rely on skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). To address that need, SWWDC is working with partners to link resources and encourage more youth and adults to enter STEM-related career paths.



\$2 Million Grant brings STEM Resources to Region

SWWDC and its Southwest Washington and Northern Oregon partners – WorkSystems Inc, Enterprise for Employment and Education, Management and Training Corporation, and Vancouver-based nConnect NW – are one of five recipients of a federal Department of Labor grant aimed at increasing the number of dislocated workers and disadvantaged youth, ages 16–24, pursuing and succeeding in STEM careers. More than 90 applications were received for this demonstration project.

The grant brings \$2 million dollars over three years to a nine-county region in Oregon and Southwest Washington to build the workforce system's capacity to recruit and train individuals in careers in STEM fields.

Three STEM Coaches have been hired at metro area WorkSource centers to provide career counseling to participants and assist with identification of education and training resources to support participants' career goals. Over the next three years, the three STEM coaches will work with more than 650 individuals.

"Our goal is to help people understand that there are opportunities in STEM-related fields that are open to them," said SWWDC STEM Project Manager Shelley Parker. "They can go through an educational program, even if it's just one or two years, and find a new career



STEM COACH Manlio Castillo works with Jose Resendiz on a career blueprint. STEM program participants benefit from STEM coaches who have been hired at local WorkSource centers to provide career counseling and help identify educational and training resources.

path that, given our nation's shortage of skilled STEM workers, will be in demand now and in the future."

When discussing STEM opportunities, Parker stresses that a majority of STEM jobs do not need a four year degree. There are far more middle-skill level opportunities.

"You don't have to be a doctor or an engineer to reap the benefits of a STEM career," said Parker. "Electricians, surveyors, and technicians of all types represent STEM careers that are in high demand now and will continue to be in high demand in the future. In fact, many of the green jobs that everyone is talking about are those that require some form of STEM skills."

For more information, visit www.swwdc.org/stem.

STEM SCAN AND SUMMIT CONNECT REGIONAL RESOURCES

In the Summer of 2008, Clark College funded the Southwest Washington STEM Scan to inventory the area's STEM programs and resources and to identify programmatic gaps. Data from the Scan was used to support SWWDC's application for a regional \$2 million Department of Labor grant aimed at increasing the number of individuals pursuing STEM careers.

More than 20 programs were identified in the SW Washington Scan in December 2008. Southwest Washington partners held the region's first STEM program summit to discuss findings and to help program leaders learn more about one another.

Coordinated by Clark College, Educational Service District 112, nConnect NW (formerly Mentoring Advanced Programs for Students), SWWDC, and Vancouver Public Schools, the summit was attended by more than 85 staff and educators directly connected to STEM programs.

As a result of these initiatives, not only did SWWDC and its partners secure the \$2 million federal grant, but summit participants have identified ways to formally and informally increase collaboration on delivering services and attaining common goals.

A copy of the Scan and other related documents are available at www.swwdc.org/resources.



High Tech U Provides Hands-on View of Real World Math and Science

In May 2009, SWWDC partnered with the SEMI Foundation, Underwriters Laboratories, Clark College, SEMI Pacific Northwest Steering Committee, and WorkSystems Inc. to offer the SEMI Foundation's High Tech U program to 30 students from Battle Ground, Hockinson, and Washougal high schools. The goal of the program was to inspire students to be part of tomorrow's high-tech workforce by energizing and exciting them about math and science, and high tech careers.

SEMI's High Tech U is an industry-driven math- and science-based career exploration program that offers students three days of learning at a local area employer – in this case, Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

Taught by UL's employees, the program demonstrated how math and science are used in the workplace and highlighted STEM career pathways. Students also participated in mock interviews. Post-secondary partner Clark College presented information on STEM related post-secondary education and training opportunities.

"This is exactly the kind of hands-on, real-world engagement we need to ignite that spark about STEM careers. So many people don't comprehend how math and science are used in the work world and, as a result, their interest in math and science rarely moves past the required courses in school. We see this as an opportunity to build the pipeline of STEM workers for our local area employers," said Lisa Nisenfeld, SWWDC executive director.

Students gave the program rave reviews. Hockinson High School student Jaime Miller shared, "The interviews were the best part of the





day. Oh my gosh, thank you for this opportunity! It was amazing to see what employers want.”

At the conclusion of the program, Kyle Barnes of Battle Ground High School and Josh Smith of Hockinson High School each received \$1,000 scholarships. Additionally, eight teachers from the participating high schools were invited to attend the educators’ version of High Tech U at Solar World and Intel in Hillsboro, Oregon.

The program was funded in part by a Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant from the US Department of Labor administered by WorkSystems, Inc. along with private sector donations. SWWDC hopes to bring High Tech U to Southwest Washington again in the future.

The program’s objective – to increase students’ understanding of the pathways necessary to move on to a technology-based career – has clearly been met. Ninety-four percent of the students in the program say they now understand the courses necessary to take in high school to lead them to a science or engineering career – an increase of 45 percent from pre-survey results. Students will be surveyed each year until they become sophomores in college to follow their academic and career paths.

For more information, visit www.semi.org.

EARLY ENGAGEMENT AIMS TO CREATE COMMITMENT TO STEM CAREERS

During Spring 2008, SWWDC partnered with Educational Service District 112 and Fort Vancouver and Kelso high schools on a pilot project to engage 15 low-income ninth graders in fun math and science activities with a goal of influencing their future academic and career choices.

The program featured a mix of classroom activities and field-based learning. Students spent two days a month in the classroom and then two days a month in the field. Career exploration activities were also included. And Spring break trips highlighted a mixture of STEM careers and post-secondary opportunities. The field experiences and spring break trips included:

- Abernathy Fish Technology Center – hands-on learning including fish dissection
- KLTV – site visit and introduction to technology and computers
- Lower Columbia College – tour of buildings and programs
- Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and Oregon Health & Science University – site visits
- PBS Engineering and Environmental – discussions with engineers
- Clark College – tour of campus and programs
- Astoria Coast Guard and Job Corps – site tour
- Bonneville Dam and Columbia Gorge Community College – tour of Wind Power Program



I learned so much more than I would in a normal freshman year. It's really fun because it's a lot of hands-on activities."

– IBETTE (STUDENT PARTICIPANT)

"It is fun. I learned about animation."

– JOHN (STUDENT PARTICIPANT)

Students participating in the program received additional high school credit (.5 credit hours) and Clark College credit (2 Business Tech credit hours). Students will be tracked their sophomore year to assess their progress in STEM-related classes.

Participating students and teachers praised the program, citing its hands-on activities as fun and interesting. Most importantly, many of the students have expressed an interest in taking additional science-or math-related electives due to their participation in the program.

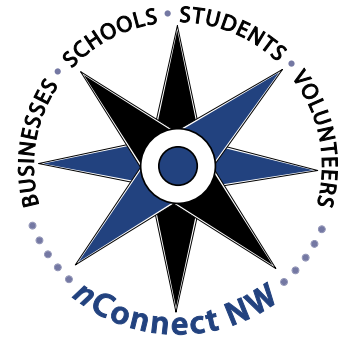


Grant Links Employers to Students to Provide Career-Related Learning Experiences

A \$143,000 grant from the Department of Labor, supported by Senator Patty Murray and administered by the SWWDC, will enable nConnect NW to initiate BizConnect, a bi-state program that links employers and business volunteers to students and teachers to provide real-world, hands-on exposure to careers.

nConnect NW, formerly Mentoring Advanced Placement Programs for Students (MAPS), will launch a new database and set of supporting services in January 2010 to more easily link business volunteers and schools. BizConnect will: provide businesses an opportunity to communicate to students and teachers about careers and how academics relate to the real world; give young people a chance to engage in hands-on activities related to specific careers; and, provide a coordinated and simple way for businesses to connect with the educational community.

The program will begin its first year in five Southwest Washington high schools with a goal of 150 employers offering career related activities to 300 students and teachers in the 2009–2010 school year. The goal is to expand to all Southwest Washington high schools within five years.



“All around, the program is a win-win situation for students, teachers, schools, and businesses,” said Program Director Natalie Pacholl. “It will create an easy to use system for all parties that will leverage the business community to enhance the educational and career exploration process for young people in an area of high demand.”

nConnect mentor, Kristi Matthews, agrees. “I have been a mentor for three years. Although several of my colleagues want to volunteer as well, not everyone has the time to commit to being a mentor. BizConnect provides them with an opportunity to connect with young people in a variety of ways that don’t require the consistent, long-term commitment of being a mentor. BizConnect also makes the insight and experience of our community members available to a larger group of young people, who themselves often don’t have the time to commit to a regular mentoring program. The added dimension that BizConnect brings to the overall picture of business–community involvement is invaluable.”

For more information, visit www.nconnectnw.org.



SWWDC Board of Directors

Chuck Anderson
KWRL Transportation Cooperative

Rainy Atkins
Southwest WA Medical Center

Robert Bates
Washington State University, Vancouver

Ken Botero
Longview Fibre (retired)

Del Brown
Central Labor Council

Dan Cothren
Wahkiakum County Commissioner

Suzanne Cusick
Longview Public Schools

Kay Dalke
Cowlitz Bank (retired)

John Deeder
Evergreen Public Schools

Robert Gaffney
Gaffney Counseling & Consulting

Jeff Graham
United Natural Foods, Inc.

Eric Hovee
E.D. Hovee & Associates

Debbie Iverson
Carlisle Interconnect Technologies

Kathleen Johnson
Cowlitz County Commissioner

Mike Karnofski
Weyerhaeuser Company

Ilona Kerby
Lower Columbia Community Action Program

Kathy Kniep
YWCA Clark County

Bob Knight
Clark College

Loren E. Lee
Longview Fibre

Dale Lemmons
Interstate Wood Products

Bob Lewis
Columbia Vista Corp.

Mindi Linqvist
Port of Kalama

James McLaughlin
Lower Columbia College

Keith McPhun
nLight Photonics Corp.

Phillip Parker
Clark County Labor Roundtable

Tim Pfeifer
The Weyerhaeuser Company

Bart Phillips
Columbia River Economic Development Council

Angie Shipp
Swanson Bark and Wood Products

Angela Simmons
IQ Credit Union

Ted Sprague
Cowlitz County Economic Development Council

Mindy Spurgeon
Chace & Spurgeon, P.S.

Cindy Williams
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Rick Winsman
Kelso Longview Chamber of Commerce

Lydia Work
American Paper Converters



Youth Council Members

Kay Dalke
Cowlitz Bank (retired)

Kathy George
Parent

Darcy Hoffman
WorkSource Town Plaza

Dennis Kampe
Clark County Skills Center

John Krause
Lower Columbia College

Loren Lee
Longview Fibre (retired)

Nancy Martinez
Job Corps

Alex Perez
Longview Police Department

Danette Randolph
Clark College

Connie Sherrard
Vancouver Housing Authority

Angela Simmons
IQ Credit Union

Cindy Wardlow
Kelso High School

Lydia Work
American Paper Converting

CREATING CONNECTIONS: Investing in Success

WORKFORCE GUIDES HIGHLIGHT RESOURCES TO HELP JOB SEEKERS



The SWWDC published the Workforce Resource Guide for Job Seekers to provide information on organizations and programs aimed at helping individuals find education, training, and employment in Southwest Washington.

More than three dozen organizations and programs are profiled in two guides, one for Clark County and one for Cowlitz and Wahkiakum counties, along with contact information. The guides are intended to help service providers and job seekers alike identify resources to assist them with their career objectives.

To download the guides, visit: <http://www.swwdc.org>.

SWWDC PARTNERS

Arbor Education and Training
City of Vancouver
Clark College
Clark County
Clark County Skills Center
Clark, Cowlitz & Wahkiakum county high schools
Columbia River Economic Development Council
Cowlitz Economic Development Council
Educational Service District 112
Employers Overload
Enterprise for Employment and Education
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
JobCorps
Longview Goodwill
Lower Columbia Community Action Council
Lower Columbia College
MTC Works
nConnect NW

NECA (National Electrical Contractors Association)
Northwest Service Academy
RichArt Builders
SEMI Foundation
SEMI Pacific Northwest Steering Committee
Underwriters Laboratories
USDA Coalition of Minority Employees
Vancouver Housing Authority
Wahkiakum Port #2
Washington State Employment Security Department
Washington Department of Social and Health Services
Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Washington State University – Vancouver
Workforce Investment Council of Clackamas County
WorkSource Cowlitz/Wahkiakum
WorkSource Vancouver
Worksystems, Inc.

IMPACT

ADULTS

2,355 individuals served in WIA adult and dislocated worker programs

784 individuals attained employment

160 individuals completed occupational training and received formal credentials

1,051 companies were assisted with 1,070 job orders representing 1,272 openings; 56% were successfully filled

Some 300 additional training slots were made available for low-income adults and dislocated workers as a result of ARRA funding

YOUTH

469 youth, ages 16–21, were served in the Youth Workforce Program (YWP)

- 57% entered the YWP with reading, writing, or math skills below 9th grade level
- 93 youth received their diploma or GED
- Of the 186 youth who exited the program, 78% were either employed or enrolled in post-secondary education

More than 735 youth gained work experience through the Summer Youth Employment Program as a result of ARRA funding

SWWDC FUNDING: Revenue and Investments

REVENUE

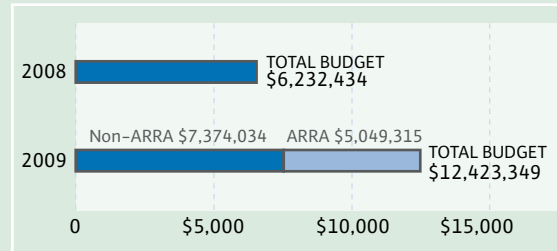
SWWDC is funded largely through the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA). WIA funds are allocated annually to the states and then to the local areas based on a formula that includes population growth, unemployment, and percentage of individuals in poverty. The funds are used to help low-income adults and youth and dislocated workers prepare for and find employment that leads to self-sufficiency while at the same time ensure that local area employers have the skilled workers they need.

Although SWWDC's budget doubled between 2008 and 2009, the increase was due largely to the infusion of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds and other state and federal grant funds targeted to specific activities. Overall, SWWDC's regular annual allocation of WIA funds decreased by 13.5 percent for program year 2009.

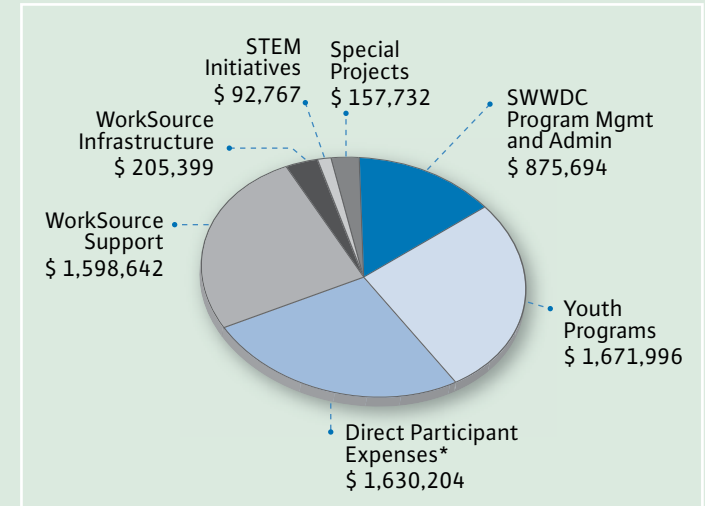
INVESTMENTS

SWWDC does not provide direct services to clients. Instead, it invests nearly all of its funds in the community through service providers, education and training partners, and other community based organizations and in leadership on special projects such as industry sector initiatives and partnership and resource development.

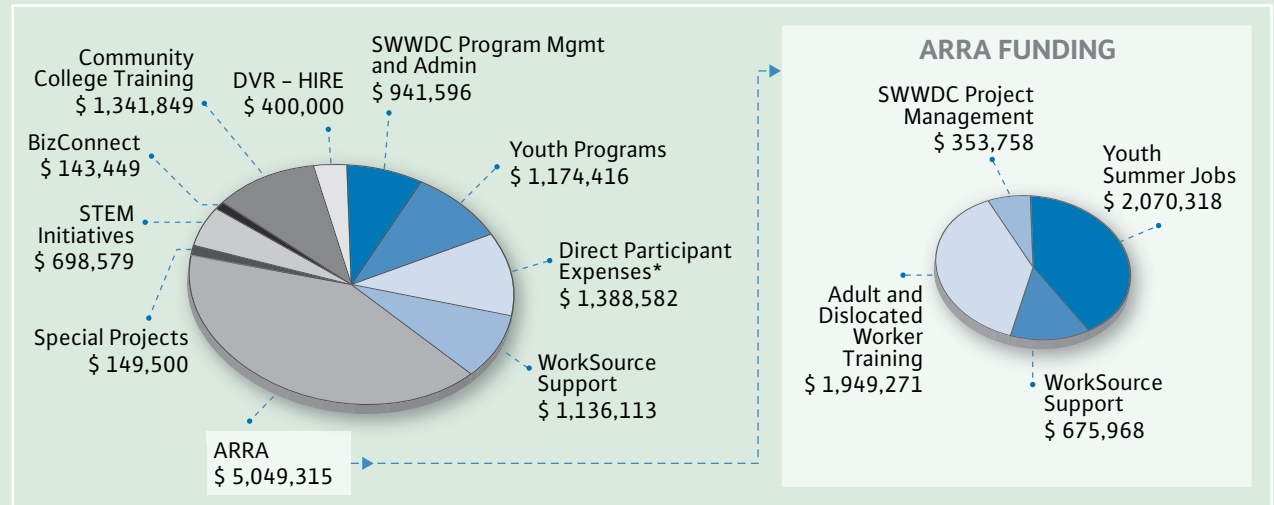
2008/2009 REVENUE



2008 INVESTMENTS



2009 INVESTMENTS



* Vouchers for training of customer's choice and direct assistance with transportation, work supplies, child care, and other needs.

ABOUT THE SWWDC

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) provides leadership and resources to increase economic development with a trained and productive workforce in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties.

Led by a diverse board of directors from the private and public sectors, the SWWDC connects partners to create a workforce development system that includes WorkSource employment centers, local economic development councils, K–12 schools, community colleges and community-based organizations.

Since its establishment in 2002, the SWWDC has helped thousands of youth and adult workers connect with training opportunities, good jobs, and career advancement opportunities, while connecting businesses to skilled employees through employee recruitment and retention services.

To learn more about the SWWDC's programs and initiatives, visit www.swwdc.org.

SWWDC Staff

Marie Andrus
Jordana Barclay
Mary Brown*
Hahli Clark Parvey
Amy Gimlin
Barri Horner
Nelson Kee
Lisa Nisenfeld
Susan Pagel
Shelley Parker
Jerry Petrick*
Barb Smith
Brandi Stewart-Wood

**Shared staff with the Cowlitz and
Columbia River Economic Development
Councils*

The Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council is an Equal Opportunity employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available on request to persons with disabilities. TTD Washington Telecommunications Relay Service, (800) 833-6384.

© 2009, Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council



Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council
805 Broadway, Suite 412
Vancouver, WA 98660

Phone 360.567.1070
Fax 360.567.1054
www.swwdc.org