



PACIFIC MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION Wired

THAT'S NEWS | FEBRUARY 27, 2009

Director's Note: Please join me in acknowledging the achievements of the F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Teams at Willapa Bay, Aberdeen, Shelton and New Market Skills Center. These teams competed in the Tech Challenge Face-Off held at the Aviation High School in Seattle this week-end. New Market Skills Team won an award for recordkeeping. The skilled Willapa team took first place and is eligible to compete at the international competition in Atlanta G.A. I saw the event and was awed by the teamwork and enthusiasm of these students. WIRED sponsors these programs. Students and volunteers like these demonstrate huge ROI on our investment. Congratulations! Cheryl

Electric Truck Promotes Local 'Green' Awareness

The Center for Excellence at Centralia College added a zero-emission small truck to their teaching program. The truck will be used for classroom training and will also be trotted out to various events to promote the Center for Excellence (COE) and clean energy efforts. Rulon Crawford, COE faculty member is excited about using this new tool to train and to introduce his students to this form of clean energy.

The college is working to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and to reduce atmospheric carbon emissions to as near to zero as possible. Electricity is the hands-down energy choice for the college's future needs

The college carefully defined its carbon footprint, engaged faculty and students in comprehensive resource recycling, has the first large building in the region built to LEEDS standards. They are switching to native plants and grasses to conserve water and eliminate the need for fertilizer or pesticides.

Funding for the small electric truck was part of a larger grant from the Lewis County Economic Development Council. The Council provided \$260,000 in grants to purchase simulated lab equipment, solar panels, a small version of a wind turbine and other teaching aids.



Executive Director Hins-Turner with COE student and the electric car

Hands-on teaching tools help the Center of Excellence provide an ever stronger learning environment for students. Clean energy is a major component of the federal package to put people back to work and to become a world leader in clean technologies. COE is a model for that effort. For more information contact Energy Coordinator Jim Lowery at jlowery@centralia.edu or 360-482-1756

Creating a Career in the Trades – Skills USA

A crowd of 35 spectators, instructors and advisory members were on hand to witness students from school districts around the region compete in 5 construction events February 19, 2009. The Regional Training and Education



Students Try-a-Trade

Center @ Satsop hosted the event that brought students from as far away as Port Angeles and as close as Elma. Some school districts had never heard of the event, but they came as spectators, to tour the defunct Satsop nuclear reactor, to learn more about today's "green" technologies, and to talk with trades people about opportunities in construction apprenticeships.

Contestants didn't have much time to spend on those activities, since the rigorous competition kept them jumping from one station to the next. Brock Maxfield, Vice Principal from Hoquiam High School stated, "We didn't bring any competitors this year, but watch for us next year!" This competition was sponsored by the Carpenters-Employers Apprenticeship & Training of WA-ID and served as the Olympic Region Skills USA qualifying competition. For more information about WIRED's construction related projects contact Matt Gordon, mgordon@wslc.org or 360-482-1754.

CONTACT US

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Green Building Training Is Where It's At!

The **Green Economy Jobs** report from Washington Employment Security Department shows 11-13% of jobs in construction can now be considered 'green' jobs. Although not a huge proportion, the recently announced national economic recovery plan assures continued growth and demand for these jobs and skills. McGraw Hill Construction's report, '2009 Green Outlook' indicates that "despite a 'down market'...by 2013 today's overall green building market [will] more than double".

With this in mind, WIRED's focus on Green Building Trades Education will create new opportunities for career-learners from middle school through journeyman status to develop new skills and tools for jobs in green building. Upcoming events at the RETC @ Satsop, like the May 1-2 Career Day, offers students



The new face of construction

hands-on opportunity with a variety of construction technologies. It will also feature builders and manufacturers who use green technology. Working with trade programs and educators around the State WIRED is defining emerging curricula and training needs.

A related project is the partnership with Renton's Construction Center for Excellence and the WA Dept. of Ecology that produced a 12 minute DVD encouraging high school students to consider the possibilities of a "green" job. Maili Jokman, pictured above, is featured on the video. Maili is a construction worker with Laborers Local #252 in Tacoma and is a LEED Certified AP Professional. LEED is an international credential for environmental sustainability.

Education and Training: Mixing it Up

Innovation is a hybrid process, mixing the old with the new to produce more efficient ways of meeting goals and solving problems. One of the components fueling that process is education. The Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) @ Satsop is in the middle of these changes and wants to become one of the state's best "mix-masters".

Current trends in applied education include preparation for the trades and greater support for career and technical education (CTE) programs. Consider how two legislative bills in Washington State affect career training and job opportunities. House Bill (HB)1355, would provide an *opportunity internship* for low-income high school students, and HB1356, requires greater emphasis on instruction in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) courses at state middle schools.

WIRED's collaboration with Pacific Education Institute (PEI) fits the model to *mix* together learning and doing. The project will help teachers develop better methods for experiential, project-oriented science education. Students will work with teachers and community mentors to learn the basics of scientific method and principles. The mentorship offered these students will cement new found skills and give them a "jump start" qualifying for jobs in their chosen fields. Mixing public education curricula with scientific applications trains the workforce for jobs that require these skills and helps inform public debate around environmental policymaking. Mixing science with citizenship is the right model for quality learning. For information about other innovative "mixing" projects contact Claude Dotson at cdotson@pacificmountainworksource.org or 360-482-1757.



Students exploring and examining

UPCOMING EVENTS

[FWEE Conference](#)

March 3, 2009

New Market Skills Center
"How To Interest High School Students in Electrical Industry Careers"

[Grays Harbor Expo](#)

MARCH 21, 2009

Aberdeen High School

[Sustainable Forestry Workshop](#)

April 18, 2009

RETC@Satsop

[Construction Career Day](#)

MAY 1,-2 2009

RETC@Satsop