



PACIFIC MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION Wired

THAT'S NEWS | JUNE 2009



Leaving a Legacy

The WIRED initiative is deeply concerned about sustainability and transformation...how what we do today continues into tomorrow. These grant dollars are “seed” money to enable the region, its systems and its people to jump start the journey to prosperity. We’ve funded over 60 individual projects and served over 2400 workers or those seeking work. Each has its own success story and that’s a source of pride, but our strongest on-going legacy will be the **Regional Education and Training Center**.

Meeting the needs of industry with state of the art technology and training, the Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) is on its way to becoming *the* place for collaboration between business and educators. The RETC website will launch summer 2009. Here you will find training classes and online curricula, RETC news, and upcoming events. View it at www.retc-satsop.org.

RETC is playing host to some great gatherings. May 1 and 2 the first annual Try-a-Trade day brought over 550 students and nearly 100 trades people to the site. Driving steamrollers and technologies; youth from all over the region got excited about

opportunities in the construction industry. Later this month career and technical teachers will come to the site to find innovative ways to bring classroom learning into the field. In June the Annual Center of Excellence for Energy and Construction Summit will bring national and local speakers to help us better understand the opportunities in the green economy. The RETC is fast becoming the *place to learn*.

The RETC is busy this summer. An e-Learning Boot Camp for college faculty will immerse participants in the principles and processes of designing and implementing e-learning systems. Green Building and Energy Retrofit Technician (GBERT) offers local youth 90 hours of hands-on, exploratory training for the types of jobs needed in weatherization and green building. Grays Harbor Forestry program students are not reading about tree thinning, they are out in the 1200 acres surrounding Satsop actually doing it!

Transformation is exciting, fast-paced, and very rewarding. For more information about RETC programs and activities consult our website or call us. We want to tell you of the transformation we see occurring. *Cheryl*

Giving Job Seekers an Edge

Anyone newly out of work and looking at newspaper ads knows finding a job is very complicated. Basic job site skills, computer familiarity, a sharp resume, and good interviewing skills are necessary to land a job. Certifications provide the edge needed to stand out from the crowd.

WIRED worked with Grays Harbor, Centralia, South Puget Sound Community, and Olympic Colleges to brainstorm a short-term certification program that provides entry to many industrial work opportunities. In just five weeks entry-level job seekers can acquire or enhance skills in basic computer operations and résumé writing, and applied math (most students today aren’t taught fractions and therefore cannot effectively use a tape measure). They will receive certifications in first-aid, CPR, flagging and forklift. Special emphasis will be placed on OSHA safety standards, essential shop skills, sustainability and the ‘Green’ Workplace. Participants will visit job sites, learn about apprenticeship, interviewing and jobsite communications. It’s no secret that certifications can tip the scales in favor of a job seeker and the new Industrial Readiness Certifications And Training (IRCAT) program will provide that edge. For more information contact Jon Kime at 360.570.6952 or jkime@pacificmountainworksource.org

CONTACT US

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Let's Elevate!

Technology is advancing all around us and our everyday lives are influenced by it. Grocery market cash registers are rapidly becoming a thing of the past and newspapers are being replaced by electronic media. One of the world's leaders in technology, Microsoft, wants to help us get more comfortable with technical programs. Their programs Unlimited Potential (UP) and, the latest one, Elevate America are designed to make familiarity with computers easy. They give workers and students the tools to be competitive in a technical job market, and WIRED is involved with bringing both of these to our region. In 2007 Microsoft funded UP classes to:

- ◆ Transform education
- ◆ Foster local innovation
- ◆ Enable jobs and opportunities



These goals align exactly with those of WIRED. Because the local workforce response to UP was so

great, WIRED continued and expanded the program throughout the region. To date over 300 certificates have been issued and these numbers keep growing as job seekers come to understand the value of technology skills.

UP evolved into Elevate America, a voucher program issued through WorkSource offices for valuable Microsoft certifications. Two major certificates can be earned through online training: Digital Literacy (Computer Basics, Internet, Computer Productivity), Business MS Office, and Technical (Windows Server, SQL Server, SharePoint and Visual Studio). In the first two weeks alone, over 350 vouchers were released throughout the region. Graduates from the UP program previously received the basic computer training enabling them to move into the e-learning format of Elevate America.

Elevate America is just one way WIRED is partnering with business to help the region get "wired" into the technology of today. For more information about these programs contact Lu Jewell at 570-4241 or lajewell@pacificmountainworksource.org

Work For All

Hiring and retaining a productive workforce is a challenge for every employer. 'Work for All' is informing local business how to meet that need by hiring employees with disabilities. As Greg Stormans, Vice President of Stormans, Inc. puts it, "Strong human capital strategies include recruiting, hiring, and retaining employees with disabilities. This talent pool brings a variety of experience and abilities to our stores. I encourage other employers not to overlook this talent pool." WIRED is a major sponsor of the business initiative.

An advisory group composed of disabled community service providers, current employers of the disabled, and disabled employees, among others, is guiding this effort. A 'Work for All' logo and brand has been developed and the newly launched website, www.WorkforAll.biz offers useful information on recruitment, hiring, retention, internships, and links to local, state and national resources.

Regional outreach to Lewis, Grays Harbor, and Mason counties was conducted by Thurston County Chamber President David Schaffert, with Pacific County outreach is slated for early summer. A communications consultant is helping get the word out with press releases, web content, and display advertisements; a best practice for successful initiatives like this. A comprehensive public relations plan will help bring partners aboard in the five county service area by giving them specific and useful tools. A region-wide, baseline survey is assessing current attitudes regarding employment of those with disabilities and ascertaining the current number of disabled in the workforce. The success of 'Work for All' will be a WIN-WIN for all segments of our community. For more information on this and other innovative business outreach programs contact Connie Monte at cmonte@thurstonchamber.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

OSHA 11- Training for Trainers of OSHA 10
June 15-19, 2009

Energy Best Practices Summit- Sustainability in the Green Economy
June 25-26

Green Building Energy Retrofit Training (GBERT) Academy
June 22-13

Renewable Energy Summer Youth Academy
July 20-August 12

All events at RETC unless noted.

