



# PACIFIC MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION

THAT'S NEWS | JULY, 2008

## Director Out and About

Shortly after school ended WIRED offered Aberdeen School teachers an opportunity to see the jobs of tomorrow, available today. In a hands on, learn-by-observing experience, these 22 teachers visited seven different manufacturing operations, seeing actual jobs performed. I tagged along on one of those sessions, visiting Sherri Nelson and her fine crew at Sierra Pacific's lumber mill. Our tour guide extraordinaire was shift supervisor Melvin, he introduced us to Rick and Mike who were operating complicated computers that control every facet of the mill's wood production. And we met Joe, whose saw sharpening talent is becoming a lost art. I was glad to meet these men and to see them work. They enjoy doing what they do and even better, their work allows them to take good care of their families.



Educators at Westport Shipyard

My Dad was a third generation logger. I grew up with the smell of lumber, cork boots on the porch and heated discussions about the management and decline of his beloved industry.

My Dad is gone now, but he would have loved hearing how this lumber mill is paying more than the average wage for those in the region. He wouldn't believe the advancement in the technology and the skills of these workers. The innovative "no waste" philosophy that puts every bit of the wood to work running the onsite steam plant would also make sense to him. This surely is not my father's saw mill, but I know he would have been delighted to see how mill operations have advanced while keeping some of the same ethic --steward the resource, treat people well and produce a good product.



It's a tribute to this region that companies like Panel Tech, Grays Harbor Paper, Sierra Pacific, Oval Strapping, West Port Shipyard, Ocean Spray and Imperium are willing to open their operations to teacher visits. But, it's also smart. They know that teachers are a tremendous influence on the career choices of our kids. I hope some of the teachers who participated in this learning Academy use their influence to point their students to the jobs I saw today. My Dad probably does too.

*Cheryl*

## Unlocking Potentials

"This class changed my life," the student told the instructor, tears welling up in his eyes. The class, **Unlocking Your Potential**, ended after an intense 14-hours designed to empower individuals to take control over their own lives and assume responsibility for the outcomes of their choices. WIRED funds enabled Lewis and Mason County residents with barriers to employment to obtain individual-centered, work-life skills training leading to the acquisition of the work ethics and interpersonal skills employers demand. WIRED partnered with WorkSource (Lewis and Mason Counties), the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Centralia College, and Olympic College (Shelton) to offer **Unlocking Your Potential**. This Program was created in the 1980s and is taught throughout the United States to thousands of business and social services clients and staff.



**Unlocking Your Potential** will be offered on a monthly basis in both Lewis and Mason Counties. The first Lewis County workshop, held July 10 and 11, packed the house, with ecstatic reviews by participants who relished the opportunity to learn how to change their lives and break out of habitual, negative patterns. WIRED believes classes like this continue to transform lives and equip people to be better employees.



For more information on **Unlocking Your Potential** classes in our region, contact Jill Henry, Transition Specialist: at (360) 570-6952 or [jhenry@pacificmountainworksource.org](mailto:jhenry@pacificmountainworksource.org)

## CONTACT US

For more information about Pacific Mountain Alliance for Innovation and WIRED, contact:

**Cheryl Fambles,  
Director**  
1570 Irving Street  
SW  
Tumwater, WA  
360.570.6957

[cfambles@PacificMountainWorkSource.org](mailto:cfambles@PacificMountainWorkSource.org)

## Careers of Tomorrow

**F**riday July 11, 2008 five high school graduates from around the region enjoyed lunch at the Bud Bay Café in Olympia. Each of them received WIRED scholarships to pursue a science based college degree. Though different in choice of programs each had one thing in common: their desire to further their education. WIRED is proud to be part of their educational journey and we look forward to seeing them return to the region and contribute to its vitality.

### Apprenticeship Support

Within our region college is not the only way to further your education. There are many men and women currently enrolled in an apprenticeship program. These individuals work long hours sometimes up to 6 days a week in order to learn their craft.

Each person in the program works and goes to school and is given the chance to push themselves and demonstrate their capability. WIRED issued 32 award certificates and gas cards to help support the efforts of these hard working individuals. WIRED is working to establish other scholarship programs that are helpful to those completing their apprenticeship.

If you have any questions about the scholarship programs or if you would like more information contact Joan Olson:

[jaolson@pacificmountainworksource.org](mailto:jaolson@pacificmountainworksource.org)



## Why Robotics?

**B**ecause applied math and science are embedded in the learning of this technology. The summer classes sponsored by New Market Skill Center, Digipin, WIRED, Willapa Valley and Aberdeen High School drew thirty-one students who put off summer vacation to attend a focused 90-hour high school credit class. From 7:30am to 4:00pm students were engaged in a collaborative hands-on “thinking out of the box” learning environment. The open, creative atmosphere fostered individual and team expression as students were challenged with electronic and programming problems. “This was an awesome opportunity for my son. For a 14-year old to have a class where he can seriously engage with a college instructor while learning and problem solving was invaluable. For us it wasn’t about the credit it was about the level of instruction.” said Sharon Jackson, Aberdeen parent.

Robotics, rooted in the hard sciences of math, science and engineering, is the three legged stool that sets a critical learning platform for many careers. Without this pathway there will be no resource to develop the next

generation of industry innovators. “The Digi-Pen robots have truly inspired the students. They stepped up and became problem/solutions type people; thinking about options to solve problems as they occur. The sense of accomplishment can be felt throughout the classroom.



When the students return to classes in the fall, they will have a story about what they did this summer that will be completely different from other students...When break is announced, I have to insist they take a break and also have to lock the door because they are so excited about completing the task before them. Hurray!” said Roland Jones, Robotic Camp Instructor. Inspiring young minds and reminding them that with skills and dedication they can achieve anything is a WIRED investment that will pay dividends for many years.

Questions regarding the Digi-Pen Robotics Camp should be directed to Lu Jewell:  
[lajewell@pacificmountainworksource.org](mailto:lajewell@pacificmountainworksource.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### WIRED Open House

WHERE: Satsop Development Park  
WHEN: Tuesday August 5th  
1:00-3:00pm

As the reality of a Regional Training & Education Center draws near it makes sense that WIRED establish offices on site. By the end of July WIRED staff will have regular office hours and routinely host meetings at 50 Enterprise Way, Elma WA. 98541. 360-482-1752

### Come visit us!

For more information about  
Satsop Development Park [www.satsop.com](http://www.satsop.com)