



PACIFIC MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE FOR INNOVATION Wired

THAT'S NEWS | MAY 24, 2008

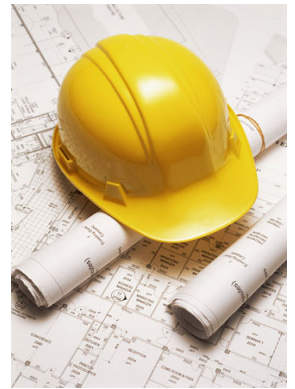
Our Region Gets WIRED

Welcome to the first edition of THAT'S NEWS! a publication of the Pacific Mountain Alliance for Innovation (PMAI) WIRED Initiative. PMAI is one of 39 regions to receive US Department of Labor funding through a **Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development** (WIRED) grant. These prestigious grants promote stronger regional identities and commit to the development of a technologically savvy and skilled workforce. In this way we assure the growth and expansion of our economy.

I was delighted to be *HIRED* by *WIRED* in early March. The essence of *WIRED* is the belief that with collaboration, a genuine focus on the needs of business; and championing innovation and entrepreneurship we can create more jobs for this region. Seems simple, but there is much to do and after only 12 weeks I can say I am definitely *MIIRED* in *WIRED*!

On March 25 our congressional delegation, US Department of Labor representatives, state officials, community, labor and business leaders celebrated *WIRED*. They discussed the

economic obstacles and opportunities of our region. All the comments were informative, but the show was stolen by **Jonathan Villanueva**, a recent New Market Skills graduate. As a young Lewis County student Jonathan did not know what he would do with his life. He heard about New Market and enrolled in the pre-apprenticeship program. Today, Jonathan works at Great Wolf Lodge in a skilled trade. At 19 years old he is enjoying the perks of a job that pays a decent wage and allows him to do work that he enjoys. Hearing Jonathan reminded me why *WIRED* is important and why this is a great job. I hope you will join me as we work to find innovative ways to provide high wage jobs for this region and for the many Jonathans who live here.



Now completely *INSPIRED* by *WIRED*,

Cheryl

SATSOP Regional Training Center

As you travel to the beaches on Hwy 8 the defunct WPPSS nuclear towers loom large in the landscape. Now, a business development park owned by the Satsop Public Development Authority (PDA www.Satsop.com) the towers may soon be home to a regional training center that provides pre-apprenticeship training, offers a



Satsop Development Park

real laboratory for the skilled trades, and houses a distance education program that serves the entire region. While planning has only just begun *WIRED* is strongly pushing this possibility. Using the \$660 million asset for these purposes is the dream of **Tami Garrow**, Director of the PDA who agrees Satsop is a perfect spot for a learning campus. **Bob Guenther**, Vice Chair of the *WIRED* Executive Leadership Council and longtime proponent of a training center says "High skills help build

a community and business locates where a skilled workforce exists. This could be great for the region."

CONTACT US

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

Cheryl Fambles, Director

1570 Irving Street SW

Tumwater, WA

360.570.6957

cfambles@PacificMountainWorkSource.org

Watching MOVIES At Work?

Small and medium sized business often can't afford to send their employees off the work site to participate in extended training programs. So **Westport Shipyards**, North America's largest yacht builder, decided to bring the training to the employees by designing DVD-based training modules that could be completed by employees on the job site.

Westport Shipyards partnered with Pacific Mountain WDC and the Northwest Marine Manufacturing Technology Skill Panel to develop a visually interactive training tool. This locally produced, technologically based training allows incumbent workers to be trained on site during normal business hours.

The training DVD uses actual workers to demonstrate the detailed steps taken in a production process and clearly shows



Westport Shipyards

expected outcomes. The results: reduced down-time because no travel is required, accelerated production process and increased problem solving, teamwork, and communication.

Westport estimates a savings of approximately 10 minutes per employee, per task trained. If each employee performs 4-5 tasks per day that is a savings of 40-50 minutes, greatly increasing productivity while improving the skills of employees.

For more information about how your business can develop DVD training tools contact: **Lu Jewell @ 360.570.4241**

Listening to BUSINESS Needs

Local employers frequently express a need for short-term, technical training in a wide variety of in-demand occupations. **Computer Manufacturing Technology (CMT)** is one of those much needed by local businesses. Collaborating with South Puget Sound Community College and the New Market Skills Center, WIRED created a two-quarter program where students will learn to use mechanical design software to operate robotic numerical control machines. Completion of this program may lead to careers such as CAD/CAM Computer Programmer with entry-level wages ranging from \$15 to \$30 per hour. On May 5 the first class of 24 students began



May 2 Open House

the CMT pilot program, many of them with scholarships from WIRED. The program will finish the end of December 2008. Employers are already awaiting completion of the class in order to hire graduates.

Responding to the specific training needs of business creates employment opportunities for those seeking jobs or for those wanting to upgrade their skills. WIRED looks for ways to partner with business in ways that offer higher



State-of-the Art Equipment

wage jobs. If your industry finds itself needing short-term training to fill long-term employment needs, contact: **Jill Henry @ 360.570.6952.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Energy Summit

June 26, 2008 9am-5pm
June 27, 2008 9am-2pm
Satsop Development Park
To RSVP: <http://www.centralia.edu/coe/summits.html>

2008 Economic Update

June 12, 2008 8am-9:30am
Great Wolf Lodge
Grand Mound WA.
Reservations :
<http://www.thurstonedc.com/Page.aspx?hid=367>

Why Regionalism Now?

1/2 day Conference
June 16, 2008 9am-12:30pm
Satsop Development Park

**Or for more information
call 360.570.6957**