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# System focus

WCDD: Your source for policy, program and technical assistance

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

November marks the beginning of the busy holiday season for our customers, colleagues, friends and families. In addition to the added stress of preparing for the holidays, many of our customers continue to struggle with unemployment, underemployment and difficulty finding family wage employment in the wake of the Great Recession.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I have been reflecting upon the many things we have to be thankful for in our system:

- 1) Dedicated staff who regularly go above and beyond to assist customers
- 2) An improving economy, which is creating more job opportunities for Washington citizens;
- 3) Strong local and state partnerships that produce high quality outcomes for our customers; and, last but not least,
- 4) Friendships, laughter and shared commitment throughout our entire system.

Thank you for all you do, each and every day, to support our customers in their efforts to overcome unemployment and find jobs that support many families throughout our state.

**Happy Thanksgiving,  
Amy Smith**

### Career Readiness for a Working Washington

Middle and high school students in four Washington cities will get to explore career paths and participate in work readiness activities in a new pilot program called Career Readiness for a Working Washington, thanks to funding efforts by Employment Security and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). [Read more...](#)

### WorkFirst LEAN Projects

During the week of November 18-22, Employment Security staff, supervisors and administrators affiliated with the WorkFirst program engaged in three separate Lean events held in Olympia, Yakima and Spokane. [Read More...](#)

### WIA Annual Report Submitted to USDOL

Washington's WIA Title I-B Annual Report for Program Year 2012 (PY12) was successfully submitted to the U. S. Department of Labor (USDOL) by the November 15, 2013 deadline. The report, which is a collaborative effort between ESD, the Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board (WTECB) and Washington Workforce Association... [Read more...](#)

### Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

As an alternative to an in-person meeting, the PAC is scheduled to participate in a webinar on December 3rd. The goal is to finalize:

- The WorkSource Definitions WorkSource Advisory Notice (WIN), which implements a framework for standardizing common definitions in policy guidance; and
- The Monitoring Policy revision, which describes the overall vision for oversight and monitoring and outlines recipient and subrecipient compliance monitoring requirements.

## Career Readiness for a Working Washington *(cont. from page 1)*

With the support of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) 5% administration funds, four Workforce Development Areas (WDAs) have entered into agreements with local education partners: Seattle-King County (Renton), Southwest Washington (Vancouver), North Central (Wenatchee) and Spokane Area (Spokane). The pilots will offer activities such as mentorships, internships and other work-based learning activities. A fifth pilot between the Pacific-Mountain WDC and education partners in Yelm is being launched as well, but will not use WIA funds. You can read more in the [full Employment Security news release](#).

## WorkFirst Lean Projects *(cont. from page 1)*

The Olympia event drew participants from across the state and focused on reducing the time and effort associated with non-value added administrative tracking to increase customer engagement through a more efficient process. The Yakima and Spokane events brought together both ESD and DSHS staff from Central and Eastern Washington to work on improving communications and coordination. ESD and DSHS will work together on three DSHS-sponsored Lean projects: reducing customer “churn” on December 9-13 in Tacoma, verifying and documenting actual hours on March 10-14 in Vancouver, and reducing transition gaps on June 9-13 in Spokane.

## WIA Annual Report Submitted to USDOL *(cont. from page 1)*

is principally focused on state and local performance against negotiated PY12 common measures targets in WIA Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker programs. It also serves as a platform for highlighting state and local successes and activities that used WIA funds during that period. Once approved by the U. S. Secretary of Labor, the report will be available on the WTECB website.

## Data Validation Review Findings and Concerns

This past week, the Workforce & Career Development division (WCDD) received a summary of findings and concerns regarding Washington’s federal reporting and data validation systems. This report was sent as a follow-up to DOLETA’s 2013 on-site Data Validation review. The state is reviewing the report and will keep the lines of communication open as an action plan is developed and implemented.

## Federal Bonding Program

Did you know that the WCDD administers a free federal bonding service for Washington employers on behalf of USDOL? The Federal Bonding Program is the only way at-risk hires can be bonded. The program provides individual fidelity bonds to employers for prospective employees who are, or may be, denied coverage by commercial carriers because of their at-risk status, such as ex-offenders, ex-addicts, welfare recipients and dishonorably discharged veterans. The bond insurance covers losses resulting from theft, forgery, larceny and embezzlement by bonded employees, but it does not cover liability due to poor workmanship, job injuries or work accidents. Bond coverage ranges from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$25,000. For more information, please call the Washington State Bonding Coordinator (800-339-3981) or write to PO Box 9046, Olympia, WA 98507-9046.



### New Policy Guidance

None this month.

### December 2013 Featured Events

#### Lean: Getting Started (Module 1)

12/13/13 - 9:00 am

12/20/13 - 1:30 pm

To register, click [here](#).



### We want to hear from you!

Send us your comments, concerns or questions. We want this newsletter to reflect our system and welcome your suggestions for future articles. Let us know what you’d like to see!