



January 16, 2014

Agency report to the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council

This report for the quarter spanning October 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 highlights notable WorkSource-connected apprenticeship activities in several regions of Washington.

In Spokane County, WorkSource Spokane has a strong partnership with Inland Northwest apprenticeship coordinators. WorkSource Specialist Brad Johnson is available to speak to anyone interested in apprenticeship and averages at least two individuals a week seeking information. Brad also talks to registered apprentices about how to apply for unemployment insurance. For apprenticeship retention, Brad refers participants to the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program.

This past quarter, Brad enrolled two registered apprentices into the WIA program. One was a female roofer who did not qualify for unemployment insurance due to insufficient work hours. WIA provided support services and the apprenticeship program was able to use WIA OJT grant funds to reimburse the employer for the extraordinary cost of training and supervision at 50 percent of the apprentice's wages for 6 weeks. The other apprentice was a first year female apprentice in the carpentry program who was a graduate of the fall pre-apprenticeship program for women and minorities and was by assisted by WIA through the purchase of tools and payment of tuition.

On September 24, twenty-one individuals (17 women and 4 men) recruited and screened by a partnership of WorkSource Spokane, Spokane Area Workforce Development Council, Apprenticeship and Nontraditional Employment for Women (ANEW) and the Electrical Training Trust began the second annual pre-apprenticeship class for women and people of color under a grant from the Washington State Department of Transportation. Fifteen heard about the class from WorkSource, four were referred by apprenticeship programs, and the rest heard about the program from friends. The class finished in November with 15 graduates, each of whom earned OSHA 10, CPR and first aid card, flagger and forklift certification. The class also included fitness, budgeting, basic hand tool and safety, and construction math. One subsequently received an ANEW scholarship to attend Avista's Lineworker School with WorkSource Spokane helping her apply for financial aid and student loans. In December, WorkSource Spokane helped recruit for the February 2014 class.

The Spokane Area Workforce Development Council was awarded \$30,000 by ANEW to provide outreach for construction trades apprenticeships and co-enroll at least 16 women into WIA and provide them with non-traditional career exploration, job readiness training, and possible pre-apprenticeship training through WorkSource Spokane. The grant, which came to ANEW from the U.S. Department of Labor, runs from January 2013 through July 2014. Since receiving the grant, WorkSource staff have provided information about apprenticeships and non-traditional occupations to 62 women and enrolled 21 into the project.

Thirty-four high school teachers and counselors from the Spokane region attended the Pathways to Apprenticeship event presented by the Construction Center of Excellence on September 25. Attendees received tools and resources to help guide students into apprenticeship, connections to apprenticeship programs representing many industries, a chance to tour the apprenticeship training center, and hands-on experience in multiple trades. The event was sponsored by the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council and produced in partnership with Spokane Community College and apprenticeship training programs.

In Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Area (Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston counties), the workforce development council (WDC) is proud to note that the Chair of the Washington State Apprenticeship Training Council, Pete Lahmann, is a member of the WDC board of directors and further chairs its Finance Committee and is a regular contributor of information about state apprenticeship activities. This past quarter, the WDC and its WorkSource partners supported apprenticeship activities through (1) financial support for the Pierce County Apprenticeship Career Day at the Washington State (Puyallup) Fair, (2) sponsorship of Mr. Lahmann's participation in the Quinault Tribal Employment Rights Organization Conference where he gave a well-attended workshop on apprenticeship, and (3) apprenticeship components in the Camo2Commerce Rapid Response Additional Assistance grant and National Emergency Grant to assist transitioning service members at Joint Base Lewis McChord. Mr. Lahmann will also represent the Pacific Mountain WDC at the National Association of Workforce Boards meeting where he will learn more about how apprenticeship can be used and contribute to the national base of knowledge.

In Tacoma-Pierce County, WorkForce Central (WFC) is spearheading a new training program called the *Trades Occupation Opportunities Learning (T.O.O.L.) Center*. In 2014, this pre-apprenticeship program will provide 45 individuals (three cohorts of at least 15 students over the course of the year) the opportunity to explore the trades and provide them with the knowledge they need to successfully enter a registered apprenticeship program (e.g., laborers, carpenters, electricians, roofers, cement masons, operating engineers, iron workers). The primary focus will be City of Tacoma residents who are 18-24 years of age and looking for a pathway to move them into a rewarding career in the construction trades. The program is 10 weeks long and provides students with industry credentials such as OSHA 10, forklift, flagging, and scaffolding. Students will be prepared to test successfully into the apprenticeship program they intend to pursue. The program is funded by the City of Tacoma, Workforce Investment Act, and Brownfield. The advisory board is comprised of business, apprenticeship coordinators, and local government. WFC is focused on developing an industry pipeline that will assist construction trade employers with a skilled workforce. The T.O.O.L. Center will begin its first training cohort in February 2014. Recruitment is currently ongoing and outreach is taking place at the local WorkSource centers as well as local community-based organizations.

In the Olympic (Kitsap, Clallam, and Jefferson counties) region, WorkSource supported a major hiring event for Bremerton-based Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in September and October. The shipyard was hiring 1,073 Helper trainees for various trades within the shipyard. About 85% of the apprentices that attend classes at PSNS come out of the ranks of these Helpers. WorkSource Kitsap County helped job applicants by putting on special workshop sessions on how to complete the federal job application forms required by PSNS. The effort drew the attention of KIRO TV, which did a story and interviewed several WorkSource customers.

Lastly, let me call your attention to Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 8-13, which was issued by the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration on January 2. TEN 8-13 highlights a report from the Secretary of Labor's Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (ACA) titled, *21st Century Registered Apprenticeship: A Shared Vision for Increasing Opportunity, Innovation, and Competitiveness for American Workers and Employers*. It can be viewed on-line at http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEN/TEN_18_13_Acc.pdf

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this report. If you have questions, please contact me at 360-902-9751 or gkamimura@esd.wa.gov.

Respectfully submitted,



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