



SERVING CHELAN, DOUGLAS, GRANT, ADAMS, OKANOGAN COUNTIES



The Workforce Development panel at the Building the Future Energy Workforce Conference at Big Bend Community College on April 11.

IN THE LOOP | Issue 4, May 2024

Hello {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

Welcome to our fourth issue of In The Loop, a monthly newsletter just for SkillSource Board Members and County Commissioners. Please enjoy some recent highlights, performance insights, and stories from the SkillSource community.

Thank you for all you do to strengthen workforce development in our region!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa".

Lisa Romine, CEO

Board Member Spotlight

We are grateful to have Dr. Faimous Harrison on the SkillSource Regional Workforce Board! Dr. Harrison became the thirteenth District President of Wenatchee Valley College in January 2023, and began serving as one of our board members over the summer. He brings a wealth of experience and expertise as a community-based participatory action researcher (PAR) and is deeply committed to the philosophy that when given the chance, training, education, and resources, residents have greater opportunities to improve their quality of life.

"Representing Wenatchee Valley College which has aspirational goals of building upon our support for the region while advancing our mission -- expanding access to education, upskilling, and meeting residents where they are -- is part of our college's DNA, which is important to me and represents some of the attributes I bring to the SkillSource board. Furthermore, the commitment and diverse members on the board provide opportunities for us to have a more significant collective impact in Chelan, Douglas, Adam, Grant, and Okanogan counties. In my short time here in North Central Washington, I have witnessed the positive contributions and impact it is making in many ways."



"SkillSource is a game changer, beacon of hope, and invested nonprofit leader who is doing amazing work. It has been an honor and privilege to watch, learn, participate, and contribute to this great work as one of the board members, and as an employer in which SkillSource is involved throughout our region."

Faimous Harrison

Wenatchee Valley College

Board Member Spotlight

Newsworthy

The need is growing for a skilled workforce that can keep up with the clean energy demands and technological advancements of today and tomorrow. That was the context for the Building the Future Energy Workforce at Big Bend Community College on April 11, 2024.

The conference brought together industry representatives, workforce experts, educators, and legislators to discuss the current landscape, the potential for individuals and communities, and examined the gaps that need to be filled in order to reach that potential.

[Read the full story.](#)



Open Doors Approved For Okanogan Schools

Open Doors is Washington's statewide youth reengagement system. The program is designed to assist students who have disengaged with the education system prior to completing high school, and to support them through educational and vocational pathways. We are thrilled to announce that Open Doors will begin implementation in Okanogan County in August in partnership with Okanogan Schools, WorkSource Okanogan, SkillSource, and OSPI (WA State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction). More details to come.



In Case You Missed It ...

In February SkillSource received a donated car from a member of our Wenatchee community. We used supportive service funds to get the car road-ready so it could be passed along to a participant in need of transportation to get to work and training. Now the car belongs to Darlene, a single mom who completed an on-the-job training with SkillSource and is now employed with Armada Corp in Moses Lake.

We are so grateful to everyone who made this possible for Darlene and her kids. Working together really is the key to success.

[Read the story here.](#)



Welcome!

Welcome to Lisa Bauer, our new WIOA Supervisor at WorkSource Okanogan in Omak! We are so excited for the enthusiasm and experience that Lisa brings to this team to help us meet the needs of Okanogan County.



Performance Snapshot

The following select updates were shared at the manager's meeting on April 23:

"It is important to take a moment to recognize your positive performance on the outcomes shown below from your WIOA Title I grants and discretionary contracts. Please feel free to share this with your board and entire team, as you see fit, in appreciation of the hard work and dedication they put into finding solutions and support for the communities served by your LWDB."

Tim Probst, Grants Director, WA State Employment Security Department



SkillSource Quarter Ending December 31st, 2023 (June 30th, 2023 for employment outcomes):

SkillSource exceeded enrollment targets for the quarter by 86%, more than double the rate at which we exceeded targets the prior year. This marks a continuing trend year-over year for the middle of the program year, a time which is traditionally difficult for the Adult program across the state due to the holidays. Additionally, our credential rate continues to be excellent, and our entered employment rate for Grant/Adams and Chelan/Douglas were both 94% in this time period.

Outcome	Target	Actual
WIOA Adult Enrollments	110	162
WIOA Adult Employment Placements	66	83
WIOA Youth Enrollments	84	157
WIOA Youth Employment Placements	44	52
Federal EcSA Enrollments	42	59
Federal EcSA Employments Above Self-Sufficiency Wage	30	27
State EcSA Enrollments	36	62
State EcSA Employments Above Self-Sufficiency Wage	8	13

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Here are a few events coming up in May and June:

- 5/17 Workforce Collaboration Summit, Wenatchee Valley College
- 6/3 Okanogan Graduation, Okanogan High School
- 6/5 Wenatchee Graduation, Wenatchee First Assembly of God Church
- 6/7 WorkSource Central Basin Spring Hiring Event
- 6/10 Othello Graduation, Othello High School football field

Our next committee meetings will be in June: Okanogan 6/10, Grant-Adams 6/11, and Chelan-Douglas 6/12. Our next board meeting will be held virtually



Tamar Jackson from the Pierce County Community Engagement Task Force and Workforce Central was one of the keynote speakers at the Omak Workforce Collaboration Summit on April 9.

[Read more about the summit here.](#)

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