



SERVING CHELAN, DOUGLAS, GRANT, ADAMS, OKANOGAN COUNTIES



SkillSource was the Diamond Sponsor for Wenatchee's La Terraza de Main Street on May 11.

IN THE LOOP | Issue 5, June 2024

Hello {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

Welcome to our fifth issue of In The Loop, a monthly newsletter just for SkillSource Board Members and County Commissioners.

The days are longer and the sun is (mostly) shining! Graduation season is upon us, and summer is filling up with opportunities to meet, learn, and share resources in our region. Scroll below for updates, news, and stories.

Thank you for all you do,

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

Lisa Romine, CEO

Board Member Spotlight

This month we're delighted to feature board member, Anthony Popelier! Anthony joined the SkillSource Regional Workforce Board in September 2022.

"Oroville Reman & Reload is one of the largest private employers in Okanogan County. With that being said, being located in the small town of Oroville, at the farthest north point of the county, I know first hand the challenges of finding and sustaining a skilled workforce. I was asked to consider joining the board to represent Oroville Reman & Reload and the north part of Okanogan County by Roni Holder-Diefenbach. After great conversations with Roni and Lisa Romine, I felt that if I could help navigate and help solve the challenges employers have in the workforce, then I wanted to be a part of it."

Thank you for your contributions and insight, Anthony! We are so grateful to have you on the board.




" Skillsource has a very passionate and driven board that aligns economic development and education with workforce investment. The vision is to improve job and career options for workers and job seekers through an integrated, job driven public workforce system that links talent to the businesses that need it."

Anthony Popelier
Oroville Reman & Reload

Board Member Spotlight

Upcoming Meetings

 **HEADSHOTS!** Our communications manager, Kelli, will be bringing her fancy camera to next week's committee meetings for any board

members in need of new headshots for the website.

- 6/10 Okanogan Committee Meeting, noon
- 6/11 Grant-Adams Committee Meeting, noon
- 6/12 Chelan-Douglas Committee Meeting, noon
- 6/25 Board Meeting - Virtual, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Community Reinvestment

COMING SOON! Local area businesses will soon be able to apply for small business grants *up to \$15,000*. The grants are prioritized for businesses that are Black, Indigenous, or Latino owned or operated. These small business grants are possible through a community reinvestment initiative with the Department of Commerce with the intention to address disparities, strengthen small businesses, grow local talent, and improve local economies. We expect to launch the grant application this summer so stay tuned!

SkillSource utilized community reinvestment funds to sponsor several cultural events in our region, including Cinco de Mayo in Othello, La Terraza de Main Street in Wenatchee, and the Sunflower Festival in Omak in order to help promote this new initiative.





Summer Youth Program

Summer is a fantastic chance for youth to gain work readiness skills!

We anticipate an enrollment of 130 youth in our Pre-ETS (pre-employment transition services) summer program. Of the enrolled students, about half will go on to be placed in a paid summer work experience. If you know of a business who would be willing to host a youth work experience this summer, please have them [contact us](#).



EMPLOYERS WANTED

Host a youth work experience!



WORK EXPERIENCE

Host a work experience for a student at no cost to your business. You'll offer a hands-on opportunity so a student can learn about the skills employers want in a field that is of interest to them. You'll gain a non-permanent employee who will learn while supporting your business.

- SkillSource facilitates the experience
- SkillSource pays 100% of student wages
- SkillSource covers all employer liabilities



Worksite Tours

students observe a variety of jobs performed by employees at one location



Job Shadows

students visit workites to observe a specific job based on their vocational interests



Informational Interviews

students meet 1-on-1 with employees to learn about occupations & career paths

Call Us

(509) 663-3091

233 N Chelan Ave.
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Pre-Employment Transition Services provides Career Exploration and Work Readiness Training to students in participating school districts in Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Adams, and Okanogan counties.

These services were developed in partnership with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. SkillSource is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. WA Relay 711.



Newsorthy

OFFICIALLY OFFICIAL! As of May 12, after a lengthy three-year litigious obstacle, a registered apprenticeship program became *officially* approved as a post-secondary pathway to qualify for licensure exams as a vet tech thanks to the dedication of Cascade Vet Clinics (CVC) in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Leavenworth. Previously, the opportunity to sit for the licensed vet tech certification was only possible after completing a two-year certificate program at a handful of colleges in the state. With registered apprenticeships now clarified as an approved pathway, more qualified candidates will be able to fill veterinary technician and assistant job vacancies and provide essential care to Washington State pets!

[Read more.](#)



In Case You Missed It

The Chelan-Douglas Workforce Collaboration Summit was held on May 17 at Wenatchee Valley College. The keynote presentation was “Creating a Behavioral Health & Trauma Informed Lens in Workforce Development” with tools shared by Dr. Julie Rickard, a nationally recognized suicide prevention leader, licensed psychologist, and educator based in Washington. Over 110 attendees joined for the valuable day of resource sharing, networking, and strengthening relationships.

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



Three former SkillSource participants shared their stories in a "Dreammakers" panel at the Chelan-Douglas Workforce Collaboration Summit on May 17.

Upcoming Events

Here are a few upcoming events:

- 6/5 Wenatchee Graduation, Wenatchee First Assembly of God
- 6/7 WorkSource Central Basin [Spring Hiring Event](#)
- 6/10 Othello Graduation, Othello High School football field

SAVE THE DATE - SkillSource will host the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event on August 22.

Follow SkillSource for Events, News, & More



Contact Us

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