

SERVING CHELAN, DOUGLAS, GRANT, ADAMS, OKANOGAN COUNTIES



IN THE LOOP | Issue 6, July 2024

Hello {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

Welcome to our seventh issue of In The Loop, a monthly newsletter just for SkillSource Board Members and County Commissioners. *Please read all the way to the bottom.* We have an important one-question survey for you, and some save the dates to add to your calendar.

I hope you're having a wonderful summer, and I appreciate all that you do!

Lisa Romine, CEO

We are only able to do this work thanks to all of you, our esteemed board members. This month we're delighted to feature Tad Hildebrand, who has been serving on the SkillSource Regional Workforce Board for seven years.

"Fifteen years ago I found myself unemployed while I was going back to school to become a teacher. My first kiddo was about to be born and I needed to find a job, quick. I walked into the SkillSource office and met with Bonnie who told me about a job in Othello that she thought I might like. She saw potential I didn't know I had and matched me with a job that paved the way for a career in HR and organizational development. I don't know where I'd be today if I had never met Bonnie, and I am so grateful she took the time to meet with me. Over the years I have met many SkillSource staff who are changing lives just like Bonnie. They help people get back on their feet, learn new skills, and realize potential they may not have known they had. These are the kind of people I want to support, and being a board member allows me to do that."

Thank you, Tad! And congratulations on your new business, Pilot Rock Consulting!



Performance Highlight



As of the end of the quarter, SkillSource has **exceeded enrollment goals** for both Federal and State EcSA, and for QUEST. This means we are effectively reaching career seekers with targeted services that help get them onto a path toward self-sufficiency in meaningful careers.

And in other good news, we've seen an **11% increase** in average wages for adults, and a **7% increase** for youth!

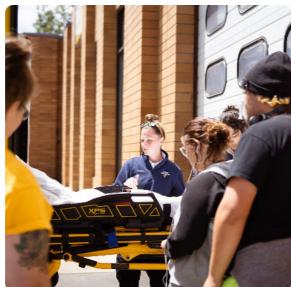


Summer Pre-ETS

Youth in Moses Lake, Othello, Omak, and Wenatchee have been participating in a summer opportunity that lets them explore a variety of interesting jobs and meet with employers at different jobsites. The opportunity is part of Pre-Employment Transition Services offered in partnership with local schools, DSHS - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and area businesses. Students learn more about their interests, aptitudes, and future goals, and gain tools for self-advocacy to help them flourish in everyday life.

Read Story









In Case You Missed It

Last month we opened up applications for the Department of Commerce Small Business Investment Grants and the response exceeded our expectations! Due to a high volume of applications received in the first week, the application period closed on July 8th. We opened up a new notification list for businesses who didn't get the chance to apply for the grants, and we will engage with that list when additional opportunities arise. The grant rating team will be reviewing applications soon, with awardees announced no later than August 16th.



FEEDBACK WANTED: Board Retreat Dates

We're beginning to plan for our bi-annual board retreat in March 2025. The retreat will be held in a central location and will begin on a Thursday afternoon and end on a Friday at 4 pm. Please respond to this one-question survey to let us know your preferred dates for the March retreat.

Answer Survey

Newsworthy

Do you get the Wenatchee Business Journal? You may have noticed this point of view article in the July issue, which explains the small business investment grants and the Community Reinvestment Initiative. If you missed the hard copy, you can access the e-edition here.

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Point of View Lisa Romine CEO SkillSource Regional Workforce Board



Summer School for Staff

SkillSource managers, trainers, and support staff are participating in a four-part training over the summer. The intention of the training is to connect new employees with seasoned staff to examine the "why" behind the work we do, the "how", and to look at opportunities to improve efficiency with the right tools, resources, and team support. The final session will be in Moses Lake on August 28-29.

Read the story here.



Upcoming Events

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS - SkillSource will host the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event on August 22 at the SkillSource center in Wenatchee. Mark your calendars and join us from 5 to 7 pm. There will be live music, local eats, and beverages. The event is free, **please RSVP**.

WWA CONFERENCE - The Washington Workforce Association will host its annual conference in Tacoma on November 12 -14. **See details and register here.**

Follow SkillSource for Events, News, & More







Contact Us

SkillSource 240 North Mission Avenue 98801 Wenatchee (509) 663-3091 www.SkillSource.org SkillSource is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay Service 711.

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