



SERVING CHELAN, DOUGLAS, GRANT, ADAMS, OKANOGAN COUNTIES



Last month's committee meetings featured tours of area businesses, including AeroTEC Flight Center in Moses Lake.

IN THE LOOP | Issue 9, October 2024

Hello {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

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

It is always great to spend time with you in person at our quarterly committee meetings. I am grateful for your partnership and dedication, and to the continued shared successes (and challenges!) in the season ahead.

Happy Fall,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lisa Romine, CEO

Board Member Spotlight

Crystal Gage has served on The SkillSource Regional Workforce Board since 2019. Crystal brings to the Board her vast experience in healthcare and serving the rural communities of North Central Washington. *"I have always liked to be involved in the community and try to help in anyway that I can; being a part of WorkSource and the SkillSource Board is a great opportunity to help our communities in Okanogan County."*

Fun fact: Crystal's first job out of high school was at Hughes Floral in Tonasket. She started out delivering flowers, and then learned on-the-job how to do floral arrangements. *"They also had a huge greenhouse attached and sold plants during spring and summer, so I also learned how to get all the starts going for the beautiful flowers that people grow in their yards. Oh, what a dream this was. I absolutely loved this job!"*

What a great *start* to the world of work! And how wonderful that as a Board member, Crystal continues to plant seeds for the future. Thank you, Crystal!



"SkillSource has great people. They are all wonderful, supportive, and willing to help with what you need for your first time career, or helping learn skills for a new career. They work hard to help in all our Okanogan County communities."

Crystal Gage
Confluence Health Omak

Board Member Spotlight

Community Reinvestment

The small business investment grants are already making a big impact in the lives of our community members. Grant funds are being used to purchase

equipment, increase capacity, hire and retain employees, and more. Meet a couple of the investment grant recipients in the stories below.



Johnny's Quality Lawn

Business owner Jose Guzman purchased new essential mowing equipment for his family-owned lawn care service and can now serve more customers in Chelan County.

[Read Story](#)



Skwant Tender

Native-owned Skwant Tender is ready to fight fires in Okanogan County after owner Sevren Carden used investment funds for vehicle maintenance and worker retention bonuses.

[Read Story](#)

Impact Report

At the Board Meeting last month we shared a preview of our Impact Report for PY 2023-2024. We will be sending each Board Member and Commissioner a printed copy of the Impact Report. In the meantime, you are welcome to [view and download the digital version](#) of the report.

The image shows the cover of the 'Impact Report' for the SkillsSource Regional Workforce Board. The cover has a dark green background. At the top, there are three small images: a group of people in business attire, a man in a blue shirt and cap talking to a woman, and a man in a red shirt and cap. Below these images, the text reads 'SKILLSOURCE REGIONAL WORKFORCE BOARD' in white, followed by 'IMPACT REPORT' in large, bold, white letters. Underneath that, it says 'JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024' in orange. At the bottom is the SkillsSource logo, which consists of the word 'SkillSource' in white with a circular arrow graphic around the 'S'.

[Download Impact Report](#)

Minutes Matter

Thank you for your attendance and engagement at our recent board meeting on September 24. Your feedback and insight is what enables us to keep doing our best work. You can review the [Draft Minutes here](#). Our next Board Meeting will be held virtually on December 3 at 5:30 pm.



Danny Thurman shared his journey with Committee members as he went from Pre-ETS to paid work experience to being hired as a staff member at Central Machinery Sales.

[Read Danny's Success Story](#)

Upcoming Events & Reminders

LEGISLATIVE TOUR - Tuesday, October 8, 1:30 - 4:30 pm: We'll meet at the WorkSource Center in Moses Lake and then proceed to tour Samaritan Hospital and Genie Industries for an in-depth look at the community impact of Economic Security for All (EcSA) and to hear from program participants who are now employed by these businesses.

OTHELLO OPEN HOUSE - Please join us for an Open House at the SkillSource center in Othello. Drop in any time on **Wednesday, October 30 between 4 pm - 7 pm** and enjoy complementary food and beverages. [View the invitation here.](#)

WWA CONFERENCE - The Washington Workforce Association will host its annual conference in Tacoma on **November 12 -14**. Several SkillSource staff members will be attending and presenting. If any board members are interested in attending, **please reach out to Lisa**.

BOARD RETREAT - Please save the dates for **March 13-14, 2025** for our bi-annual board retreat. The retreat location is to be determined. More details to come.



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