

CONNECT! Spring 2018



Welcome to **CONNECT!** This is Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council's quarterly newsletter for business and community partners. We invite you to connect with us, check out our data on current industry trends within the region, hear about new program partnerships, impact stories, and employers connecting with job seekers at your local WorkSource site.



We launched our NEW website this month! Same place, new look. Find out more about our programs for employers, partners, and job seekers at www.pacmtn.org. Be sure to connect with us and let us know how we are doing!

A Word from Our CEO:



Pictured Above:
Cheryl, our PacMtn Board Members, and WorkSource Systems Manager at the NAWB 2018 Forum.

"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny, whatever affects one directly--affects all indirectly." - Dr. M.L. King, 1968

I recently returned from the National Association of Workforce Board 2018 Forum. I traveled D.C. with two of our fine Board Members Derek Epps and Dr. Jim Minkler, as well as WorkSource System Manager, Steve Perry. We spent five incredibly full days learning and networking. Whether in the workshops or hallway conversations I was reminded our efforts are strengthened when we start from a place of listening and proceed together. The essential question—how to operationalize partnerships and work with others to meet regional workforce needs. Workforce development is a full contact, team sport. In particular, we must find even more ways to leverage the work of our community, economic development and education partners. WorkSource today has a lot to offer our communities. We can grow its value with more connections to business and industry. We can enrich our ability to help those struggling to find their economic path by working more closely with our community service partners. Come check out the possibilities at WorkSource then tell us how we can do more to advance prosperity for individuals and our region.

Cheryl Fambles

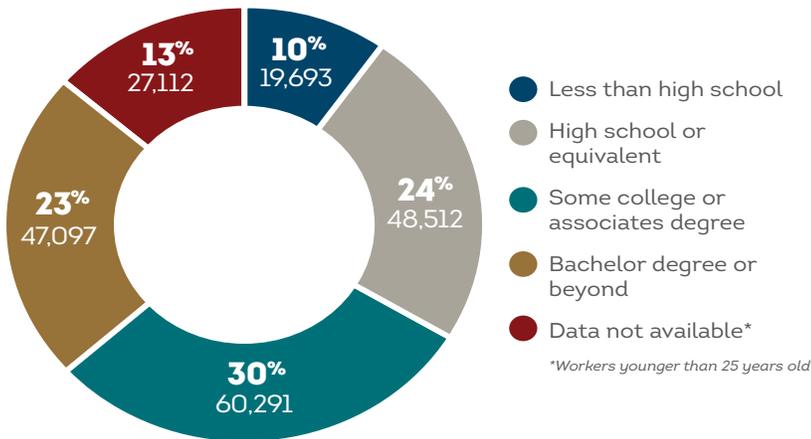
REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT SNAPSHOT

PacMtn 5-County Region

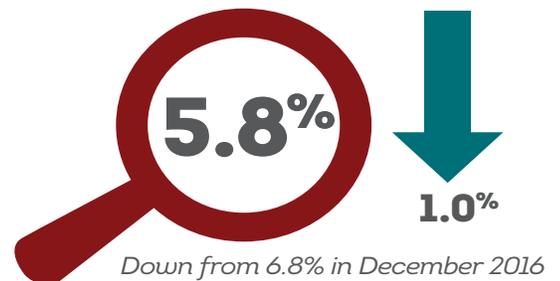


SERVING OVER **7,000** SQUARE MILES

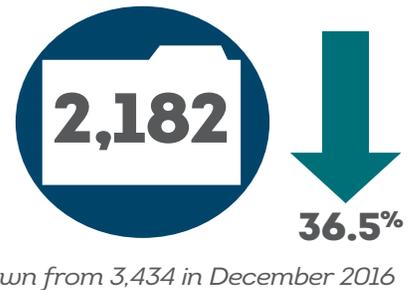
Educational Attainment of the Employed Workforce January–March 2017



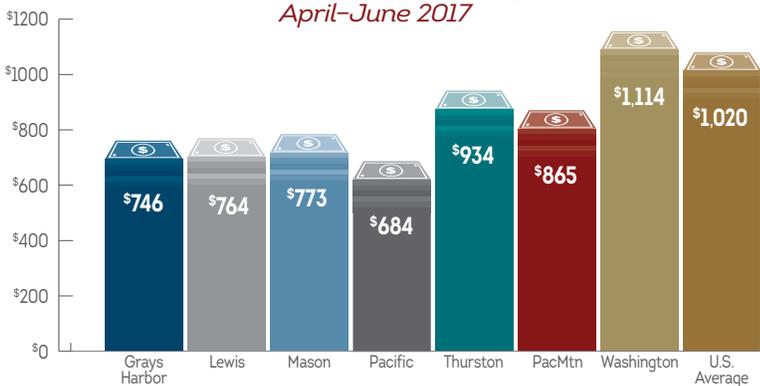
Unemployment Rate December 2017



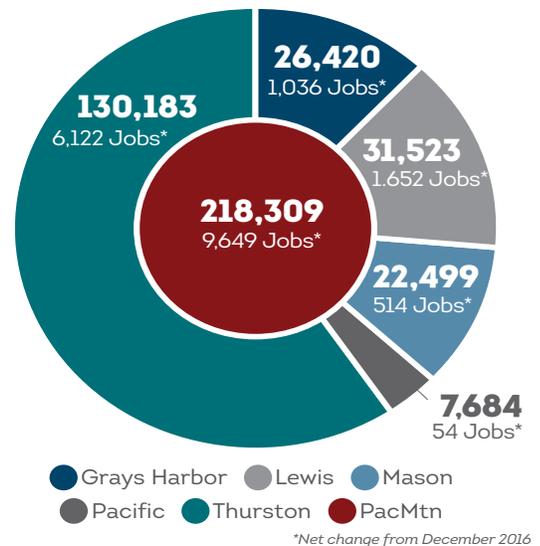
New Unemployment Claims December 2017



Average Weekly Wage April–June 2017



Total Employment Net Change in December 2017



New Hires



New Hires and Educational Attainment: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD
Total Employment, Unemployment Rate, New Unemployment Claims data: PMWDC analysis of Washington Employment Security Department data
Average Weekly Wage data: PMWDC analysis of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data—U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

PacMtn Impact: Thank You WorkSource Thurston

"Recently, I moved to Tumwater from Tacoma. I am in the process of looking for employment closer to my new location. I found WorkSource Thurston County online and drove there for the first time yesterday. Because of the professional and kind manner in which I was assisted by the staff at WorkSource, I asked for their supervisor's contact information. When you are a mature unemployed woman who is pretty much overlooked in the job market in general, it was a like a ray of sunshine to be greeted by Olesa at the front desk when I first arrived. Later, Tristan greatly helped me navigate my way through the process of being plugged into the system so that I was up-to-date. Tristan was patient and respectful, far more than other staff at other WorkSource locations I have visited in past. Job hunting, as I am sure you are aware, is very grueling and impersonal. People are often treated like inanimate objects during the process of locating a place of employment that is a good match. I'm glad that is not the case at Thurston County WorkSource. You have excellent employees who help make job hunting less callous and antiseptic."

- WorkSource Customer



A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter network

Find your local WorkSource office at www.worksourcewa.com

High Impact Community Grants

PacMtn announced the awardees for the High Impact Community Grant program. These grants support over 280 youth throughout the region and were selected from a total of 17 submissions, it made for exciting announcements! This program and the grants support Youth and Young Adult Employment Preparation and Training in Highly Rural and Remote Areas, or career connected learning. A total of \$50,000 was awarded to 11 projects throughout the region in the month of March. Find out more on our [PacMtn Youth page](#).

Camo2Commerce's Year of the Spouse

The start of 2018 marks the final year of Camo2Commerce and an intensified focus on supporting military spouses in the workforce. 'Year of the Spouse' assists spouses in gaining skills and finding employment. After one spouse-specific programming event, Darlene Wilczynski, Federal Reserve Vice President, Seattle Regional Executive, wrote to PacMtn, "The team you have assembled to do this (Camo2Commerce) work are truly inspirational. They have a calling and you can see it on how they interact with each other and their clients. As you know the spouses and veterans are incredible as well. The work you are doing has wide-ranging positive impact both for these people and our community. We are lucky to have your leadership and forward thinking to make it all work. Thank you for all that you do." (from the Mar. 2018 CEO Report)



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