Disruption and innovation have redefined the labor market and the economic landscape of our region and our nation. The Pacific Mountain WorkForce Development Council has taken stock of the organizational and environmental changes to the workforce development system and acknowledges both internal and external transformations, changes in services delivery, and improvements to our virtual platforms system-wide.

Some challenging areas were universally felt – by staff and citizens alike – such as inadequate home office arrangements; lack of childcare; unfamiliarity with virtual meeting platforms; and feelings of isolation as a result of social distancing. There were also many positive discoveries that were cause for celebration, such as a newfound way to interface with clients while remaining socially distant and healthy; increased technological literacy; and intentional, deliberate collaboration.

The WorkSource offices – PacMtn’s office systems – statewide, closed to the public in mid-March. However, the work of serving dislocated workers, adults, youth – with ever increasing focus on equity, access and priority populations – did not cease.

Recognizing that the COVID crisis, and the economic hardship resulting from the aforementioned safety measures, disproportionately impacts communities of color and the most undeserved with our communities, PacMtn’s commitment to equity in access and service has deepened to further focus our work on prioritizing these communities. The way we serve changed; as virtual trainings came online, outreach and case management went remote, ESD partners reassigned their staff to unemployment insurance, and employer and business engagement required an ‘all-hands-on-deck’ approach with our economic development partners to provide triage and technical assistance to local businesses. And, while rapid response continues, we must look forward to prepare the road to recovery for our citizens and our businesses.

**YOUTH IMPACT STORY**

Through this year’s summer DVR program, Alex enrolled in the Lewis County Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP) and conducted his internship at Quanex Building Products which manufactures window and door screens. Alex is going to Centralia College next year, enrolling in the welding program. He was awarded a scholarship to attend.

During his internship, he learned basic workplace skills like showing up on time, following direction and working hard in the shipping department preparing card load of screens for delivery. He said, “I like it here because it is hard, honest work and I can work independently.”

Last year, Alex participated in the program and worked at Thorbeckes Athletic Club cleaning, sanitizing workout equipment and general cleaning. He is looking forward to graduating from Centralia College and getting a job as a welder.

**DISLOCATED WORKER IMPACT STORY**

A Thurston County resident was laid off and out of work when he was referred to the WorkSource office for dislocated worker assistance. He successfully completed CDL training and was hired by Sutton Metals in Lacey.

He started out at $16/hr and is now making $27/hr. He says, “I am so grateful for your program! I appreciate you people so much!”

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**TOTAL JOBS SEEKERS ASSISTED BY STAFF**

5,711 participants

**WIOA DISLOCATED WORKERS**

562 participants

**DD214 VERIFIED VETERANS**

458 participants

**WIOA YOUTH**

251 participants

**WIOA YOUTH**

251 participants
PRIORITY SECTORS

Industry sectors are networks of firms related by common markets, supply chains, infrastructure, innovation, technology and labor pools. Through a data-driven Cluster Study, six sectors were identified as major drivers for our region’s economy. PacMtn and our partners are focusing our resources on meeting the needs of businesses to provide a supply chain of adequately skilled and trained job seekers for current and future industry needs.

BUSINESS IMPACT STORY

In December of 2019, the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce began working with Mason County manufacturer Belco Forest Products to develop an opportunity for their incumbent workers to gain the Adult Basic Education knowledge that they need to be eligible for promotion into supervisor and lead positions.

In partnership with Belco and Sound Learning, the local Adult Basic Education provider for the area, several workers are being provided the opportunity to increase their English and math proficiency during Onsight night classes. As an incentive for workers, the business is providing a time and a half wage rate for their training time.

Once the workers complete this portion of their training program, the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce will partner with Impact Washington to provide supervisor and mentor upskill training, through the PacMtn WDC Future of Work incumbent worker training fund.

BUSINESS SERVICES

PacMtn and our partner, the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, work together to help connect businesses to workforce talent, and provide assistance with recruitment, screening, and on-the-job training.

PIVOTED SERVICE DELIVERY MODEL TO A VIRTUAL SETTING

2,705 TOTAL BUSINESSES SERVED 1:1

847 TOTAL NEW BUSINESSES SERVED

3,676 TOTAL SERVICES PROVIDED

MORE THAN 125,000 BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT POINTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE PANDEMIC

MORE THAN 25,000 DOWNLOADS OF THE TOTAL TALENT MAGNET PODCAST

FOOD PRODUCTION

WOOD PRODUCTS & PAPER MFG.

HEALTHCARE

SPECIALITY MFG. & LOGISTICS

IT & TELECOMM

HOSPITALITY & TOURISM
As of 2019, Mason County residents earned more income at jobs located outside the county than within the county. Source: PacMtn analysis of Bureau of Economic Analysis data.

Mason County lost 950 net jobs in the Wholesale Trade industry from October 2019 to October 2020. Source: PacMtn analysis of NonFarm Employment Estimates.

**Top Five Industry Sectors | April 12, 2020-January 2, 2021**

- **Construction**: 977
- **Healthcare & Social Assistance**: 763
- **Retail Trade**: 697
- **Accommodation & Food Services**: 640
- **Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation**: 541


Note: This data is missing early peak weeks in March. The data was not collected by the Washington Department of Employment Security until April 12. Some Mason County data was suppressed to protect privacy.

**Mason County Employment 2020**

**Mason County Unemployment Rate 2020**

**Did you know?** As of 2019, Mason County residents earned more income at jobs located outside the county than within the county. Source: PacMtn analysis of Bureau of Economic Analysis data.

**Did you know?** Mason County lost 950 net jobs in the Wholesale Trade industry from October 2019 to October 2020. Source: PacMtn analysis of NonFarm Employment Estimates.
UNDUPLICATED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CONTINUED CLAIMANTS
Top Five Industry Sectors  |  April 12, 2020-January 2, 2021  |  Pacific Mountain WDA

Did you know? Veterans comprise 10% of the PacMtn adult population, compared to 7% of Washington population and 5% of the US population. Source: American Community Survey, 2019 1-year estimates.

MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT
Analysis by Pacific Mountain WDC of Washington Employment Security Dept. data

Did you know? Six months into 2020, shellfish farming employment as a share of all employment remained 166 times more prevalent in the PacMtn region than in the state of Washington as a whole. Source: PacMtn analysis of Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Q2 2020.
GOVERNANCE

Chairperson
Jacquelin Earley

Vice-Chairperson
Michael Cade

Secretary/Treasurer
Steve Rogers

Consortium Chair
Lisa Olsen

Incoming Board Chair
Alissa Shay

Alissa Shay
Port of Grays Harbor
Grays Harbor County

Diana Murphy
Intermountain Staffing
Grays Harbor County

Duane Evans
Port Blakely US Forestry
Lewis County

Bill Sullivan
K-12 Education Consultant
Lewis County

Peter Lahmann
Port of Centralia
Lewis County

Jennifer Baria
Mason County EDC
Mason County

Jacquelin Earley
Sierra Pacific Industries
Mason County

Grant Lehman
Jack’s Country Store
Pacific County

Steve Rogers
Pacific County Historical Society
Pacific County

Michael Cade
Thurston County EDC
Thurston County

David Schaffert
Thurston County Chamber
Thurston County

Scott Haas
Employment Security Dept
Regional Representative

Johnathan Pledger
Morningside
Regional Representative

Christina Riley
National Laborers Employers Cooperation Education Trust
Regional Representative

Sherry Barry
Retired LiUNA NW Region
Regional Representative

Cheryl Heywood
Timberland Regional Library
Regional Representative

Kelli Bloomstrom
Transitional Education and Centralia College East
Regional Representative

Dana Anderson
ESD #113
Regional Representative

Bob Guenther
Thurston-Lewis-Mason Counties Labor Council
Regional Representative

Jason Reed
DSHS/Community Services Division
Regional Representative

Paul Vertrees
DSHS/Vocational Rehabilitation Division
Regional Representative

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Visit us at www.pacmtn.org

MISSION
To lead dynamic regional workforce development that enhances economic success.

VISION
PacMtn is a recognized leader providing workforce solutions in Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific and Thurston Counties.

PACMTN REGION

TUMWATER
1570 Irving Street SW • (360) 704-3600

ABERDEEN
415 W Wishkah, Ste 2D • (360) 538-2350

SHELTON
2505 Olympic Hwy N, Ste 420 • (360) 427-2174

CHEHALIS
151 NE Hampe Way • (360) 748-2360

BELFAIR
140 NE State Route 300 • (360) 552-2303

LONG BEACH
2601 N Pacific Hwy • (360) 642-6213

WorkSource and Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council are an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Relay 711.