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.

### TOTAL JOBS SEEKERS
- **5,711** participants

### WIOA DISLOCATED WORKERS
- **562** participants

### WIOA YOUTH
- **251** participants

### DD214 VERIFIED VETERANS
- **458** participants

“The pandemic had a dramatic and traumatic impact on our workforce.” Getting people re-attached to the labor market and back to work is a critical step in the recovery of our economy. Building economic resiliency requires we intensify our commitment to shorter-term, in-demand training programs that serve the needs of business and industry.” - Cheryl B. Fambles, CEO

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!”
**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.

**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.

**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

**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.

**FOOD PRODUCTION**

**WOOD PRODUCTS & PAPER MFG.**

**SPECIALITY MFG. & LOGISTICS**

**HEALTHCARE**

**IT & TELECOMM**

**HOSPITALITY & TOURISM**
Did you know? Debit and credit card spending in Pacific County dropped 44% below the January average in April 2020, then rebounded to 40% above average by the end of May and remained there by the end of the year. Pacific County’s consumer spending recovery well outpaced the state of Washington, which has remained mired in below-average spending for the entirety of the pandemic. Source: Affinity Solutions

Did you know? The median age in Pacific County is 55 years old - highest in the PacMtn region and 4th highest in Washington state. Source: Washington State Office of Financial Management, April 1 2020 population survey
**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.*

**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

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VICE-CHAIRPERSON
Michael Cade

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Steve Rogers

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Grays Harbor County

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Port of Centralia
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Mason County

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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

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DSHS/Vocational Rehabilitation Division
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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

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