

Board Member Activities and Alerts

Key personnel searches are underway at PacMtn....Finding a new *Director of Finance and Administration* is underway. First review will be July 8. We are broadly advertising and planning an extensive process of review with involvement at many levels of the organization. Bridget's competency and capability have set a high bar, but with intense scrutiny on qualifications and experience we are confident we can find the right fit. *My JOB Program Manager* candidates interview June 14 and we hope for a final job offer by the end of the month.

Thurston Chamber VP of Workforce Development, **Sytease Geib leaves the Chamber** mid-June. Sytease is the primary architect of the Chamber's public workforce support for businesses in our region. Sytease has done a remarkable job serving the business community, leading her team, training WorkSource staff, serving as one of the many military spouse rock-stars that brought acclaim to PacMtn's work at JBLM, advising the larger workforce system on business needs and generally, being PacMtn's steady business services guru. We will miss her and wish her well in the return to Ohio where she will be closer to family. The Chamber has one year remaining on the existing contract and they have identified a satisfactory way to complete the requirements. We have every confidence the good work will continue.

New Board Member Nominees will move to Consortium approval end of July. Nominees include:

Name	Representing
Dr. Dana Anderson, Superintendent Capital ESD #113	K-12 Schools Programming
Kelly Bloomstrom, Centralia College Dean of Transition Services	Adult Basic Education and Learning
Grant Lehman, Cashier Manager, Jack's Country Store	Pacific County Private Industry
Sherry Barry, Northwest Laborer's Union	Organized Labor
Scott Haas, Employment Security Regional Director	WA Employment Service

THANK YOU! June 27 also marks the end of the terms of several Board Members, including Mike Hickman, service, support for and work towards making PacMtn a community service organization---dedicated to helping this region be economically stronger through development of a skilled workforce and the quality connections between business and that workforce talent.

Program News

See the attached Summary for progress information on the **High Impact Grants**. One particular project comes from Yelm. We funded the student materials and a video created for the embedded curriculum component. <https://youtu.be/Qp7eUJkG64M>

The Center for Labor Markets and Policy has just authored a paper titled "[Skills and the Earnings for College Graduates](#)" for the Educational Testing Service's series "The Impact of Human Capital in the American Labor Markets". This paper explores the challenge many college graduates with a bachelor's degree are currently facing – they aren't making enough money. The authors find that insufficient literacy and numeracy skills along with mal-employment are drastically affecting the earnings of college graduates.

Washington State demonstrates enhanced **support for military spouses and families!** Gov. Jay Inslee signed an [executive order](#) regarding expanding employment services for military spouses. One of Camo2Commerce participants stepped to the podium and said, *"As a military spouse, I am fully aware that in military family life, the mission comes first. Military spouses all over the world work hard to achieve goals one day to turn around and say good-bye the next. "We go where the military sends us. Sometimes those moves open doors to even bigger opportunities and other times we become part of the unemployment or under employment statistic. We choose family over passion and purpose. We choose God & country over financial stability. We choose you over us. And we gladly do it over and over again."*

Changing Lives

My JOB brings special attention and messaging for the young women at Echo Glen Children's Center. As reported in in the Business Journal visiting community members came, shared their stories and pledged support to help however they could. <https://southsoundbiz.com/workforce-development-program-helps-prepare-incarcerated-youth-for-new-lives/>

The pictures being shown from the **AJAC - Manufacturing Academy Graduation**. They are truly heartwarming and another lovely reminder of the importance of the work we do for our young people, especially those with the barriers that justice involvement brings.

OURR Alliance Peer Navigator met Joe, only 4 days after his release from prison. Joe was incarcerated around 3 years, and had an extensive criminal record. Joe had been sent to Lewis County under Department of Corrections (DOC) supervision. He was under a lot of stress, did not know anyone in the area, was living in a temporary sober living house, lacked many basic needs of hygiene, clothing, telephone, and transportation with zero income.

Joe's employment goal was to join the Cement Masonry Apprenticeship as a Concrete Finisher. While in Prison, he earned a "Construction Trades Apprenticeship Certification," with credits showing extensive training in Cement Trades. The Cement Masonry Union he wanted to join only offered the required in-person "Applicant Testing & Apprenticeship Selection Event" once per year, 100 miles away, and would occur five days from the time he met with the Peer Navigator. He had no plan or income - no phone, none of the required work tools and clothing needed for testing, no options for transportation or housing. Joe also needed to get DOC approval to take the test and if he passed, attend the 2-week training to become an apprentice.

The Peer Navigator enrolled Joe into the OURR Alliance program, including identifying and building a plan to support Joe in his journey to employment as a Concrete Finisher. We helped remove several barriers to his employment: a replacement cell phone, hygiene goods, the required tools and clothing to take the in-person test, and referrals to all the local resources to meet any additional needs.

Joe did find transportation to the test, finished among the top testers, and was one of the small percentage of applicants selected to the Apprenticeship. **Joe completed the two-week training and officially became an Apprentice in the Cement Masonry Union just 19 days after enrollment and 23 days after release from prison.** Joe began working full time with an employer just 4 days after becoming an Apprentice. Joe was very excited, relieved, and thankful, and texted his Peer Navigator saying "Thanks for everything again. Couldn't of happened w/out yer help to be completely honest."



Thank you to Kim and Nikki who participated in this year's Women Build! Women Build is a national program with Habitat for Humanity empowering women to get involved by raising awareness about affordable housing while building homes in their communities. Thanks for giving even more than you usually give, for having fun and for representing the soul of PacMtn in this way!