

Executive Finance Committee 3/12/2021

Welcome new WDC Board Members...Three new Board Members have joined as Nominees. The three Economic Development Directors from Lewis, Grays Harbor and Pacific County will join us immediately and be confirmed by the Consortium in April. There remains 1 vacancy on the WDC Board—Higher Education.

Media and Communications Planning and Projects...We are excited about the evolution of PacMtn's work with use of social media and communications. Our contract with MadCap has augmented PacMtn's capabilities to reach audiences and to raise our competency in delivery of services. In addition to refinements to our own website we are standing up a microsite for WorkSource services and over the coming months will develop a social media and overall communications strategy. We will provide an overview of that work at an upcoming March WDC Board meeting.

WA Economic Development Association Conference ..."Recovering Jobs & Rebuilding Communities" 2021 WEDA Virtual Winter Conference & Legislative Reception will occur Mar 16, 2021 12:00 PM - Mar 17, 2021 2:30 PM. Any Board Member wanting to attend can contact PacMtn staff for registration.

COVID Careful...PacMtn continues pandemic protocols and is safely navigating the impact of the virus. Throughout the pandemic PacMtn has been delivering some in-person services and this week we ramped up the opportunity for even more customers to get appointments for in-person services and access to the technology resources in the Thurston WorkSource. We know this is important for customers that cannot fully function in the now virtual world in which they are being required to function.

Equity, Diversity and Delivering Quality Services for the Region...PacMtn WDC and WorkSource have initiated deliberate, thoughtful and data informed discussions regarding the importance of understanding equity and the importance of dismantling systemically racist structures in our economy, our programs and in the way we do our work.

Stories of Hope and Impact

From Boeing staff regarding JBLM Airframe & Power Plant cohort...*"this program is one of our top talent pipelines, These veterans bring real world experience to the workplace, the cohorts are generally very disciplined, professional and hit the road running when they report. I look forward to an upswing in the economy and our requirements so we can continue this great partnership for many years."*

Late last year we received this message from partners in Pacific County. Judd Comer, Pacific County Jail Liaison offered strong testament to the value of the work we do in PacMtn WDA.

CEO HIGHLIGHTS

March 2021

Thanks you guys. When I first connected with you I was so excited on what things we can now help our inmates in jail with that we could not before in this important area. I can't tell you how important you have been. I do however believe you have seen the in-mates reactions when speaking with them which speaks for itself. They are really happy to meet with you through the referrals.

I myself was given an opportunity through the timber retraining dollars through WorkSource to go to college due to losing my job because of the spotted owl "issue". I went through a class called New Chance that helped build me up in so many ways and prepared me for college. I know what it's like to not be in school for years and then try this thing at college.

I left school at 15 ½ yrs. and got married and never went back and finished. By the time I was 17 I was divorced. Not old enough to vote, I had no license, no high school diploma or GED. Statistically I was already on a path going nowhere fast.

It was one day I walked into a community center because I wanted to get my GED and do better for my daughter, which I was raising on my own. This was the day that changed my life. Through a series of life and working experiences have put me where I am today.

I spoke with a woman named Karen Blakely. She asked me if I was an ex-timber worker and that I could go to college for up to two years on a timber retraining grant. I laughed because nobody ever gave me anything. In my mind why would someone pay for my college?

She asked me to sign some paperwork and that she would get back to me tomorrow with the results. I did so and left thinking I would not see her again. Well I did see and hear from her again. She was the biggest help because it was here and through speaking with her that would change things. It's where it all started.

I'll never forget this because of how monumental it was for me. I now had a chance at getting some type of career that would help me raise my daughter. I chose criminal justice and corrections in college. Needless to say that choice to go in and Karen being there at the right time put me exactly where I am today. So this is why I'm so thankful for what you do.

I know what you guys can help these people because I myself had nothing. But I was willing to push and work hard. I now had people in back of me to support me. Whether it was tires or a gas voucher, books etc. it was covered. As a young man this was highly influential for me as well. Speaking today, it was a big piece in many life and work experiences in which made me who I am currently.

I know I've said it many times but again thank you.