

Executive Finance Committee Meeting

I am seeking endorsement...for the nomination of one of Pacific County's finest business operations for the **2021 Nancie Payne Award**. That award is given to a business that exemplifies the values longtime former Board Chair Nancie Payne. It recognizes companies demonstrating workplace excellence and customer service, meaningful employee engagement, a constructive, diverse and progressive workforce culture that commit to continuously improving business management practices to ensure successful mission achievement. Prior winners have included among others Sierra Pacific, Smokin' Mo's BBQ, Thurston County Chamber and SERVPRO of Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties. The Award will be announced December 2 at the Economic Forecast and Innovation EXPO.

Deep appreciation...Duane Evans, former Board Chair and retired from Port Blakely honored PacMtn as his designated community investment recipient. The \$5000 gift was received into the Special Assistance Fund and will be used to provide financial assistance for those transitioning out of work and/or reattaching to the labor force and not yet eligible for program services. Duane spent over 22 years at Port Blakely, ending his time there as VP Forestry Operations. He served on the WDC Council as a Board Member and Chair. He also contributed to the community by volunteering on the Centralia College Foundation Board and served as Vice Chair of the Lewis County Economic Development Council. He is retired, living his best life on vast acreage on his Montana farm, fairly close to his grandchildren.

Thurston County, Thurston Strong and City of Olympia recognize value of workforce development in pandemic recovery. With a contribution of nearly \$2 mil these entities are acknowledging the importance of workforce development in recovery of the pandemic and resolution of some big community problems.

Fambles Retirement...mark your calendars for a January 28 late afternoon party to culminate a fabulous career and to celebrate the great work of PacMtn WDC in this region. As retirement draws near others want to acknowledge the value add of not just the work of an individual, but how critical workforce development is to the recovery of our region. I am appreciative of such acknowledgment from The Evergreen State College with the receipt of the 2021 [Joseph Dear Distinguished Alumni Award](#).

[National Association of Workforce Boards Forum](#) April 11 - 14, 2022 will be held in Washington, D.C. This is a pre-eminent opportunity for Board Member learning, networking with other local Board leadership and Capitol Hill advocacy on behalf of local workforce boards.

While there is not absolute certainty of the in-person event; planning is ongoing. Priority for PacMtn WDC attendance is given to those in Board and committee leadership, as well as those who have not attended previously. Limited slots are budgeted, but please let Arissa know of your interest so that we can keep all interested parties apprised.

Stories of Impact and Meaning

Higher Wages... *Molly has been unemployed since January 2020, when they closed their small business, due to the COVID-19 pandemic making it unsafe to enter other people's homes. Molly provided a screenshot from her Department of Revenue account showing the date she closed her company. Molly had been self-employed with this company from November 2019 -June 2020, where they were responsible for daily operations of the company as well as the housekeeping labor tasks. After reviewing the demand/decline list with customer, the occupation that most aligns with their previous position is Housekeepers (SOC 372012) which is in demand in the PacMtn region. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Molly was unable to be successful in this field as there was a decline in demand for in home housekeeping while most people were not working over the past year. Molly is interested in obtaining a CDL license to work at Intercity Transit as a coach operator. She is scheduled to begin a WEX at Village Vans to prepare her for training as a coach operator. Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Drivers (SOC #533032) are in demand in the PacMtn region and Molly can expect to make \$10 more per hour as a CDL driver than cleaning people's homes. Molly's self-sufficiency calculator, it shows a percentage of 45% adequacy. She has no income at this time and is dependent upon friends and family to meet her basic needs. She is unable to sustain a home or food for their self on this lack of income. What a life changing opportunity for Molly, Intercity Transit is a great, stable employer that offers benefits, opportunity for growth and retirement. I love that we are part of her story!*

Little Creek Casino Resort partners with Business Services Teams to fill over 70 job openings to fill throughout numerous departments. 20 job seekers attended job fair, and 13 of them were hired that day including one internal transfer.

Stabilized Housing... *Mid-August 2 past clients reached out for income verification as both of them are trying to purchase a home! This is super exciting news as we spend a great deal of time in our classes talking about the different pathways to homeownership and many times my clients respond "I could never buy a house" so to have 2 in one week is really promising! We are planting the seeds for future actions.*

New Careers? *Two gentlemen came to the first pop up hiring event in Lewis County looking to shake up their careers. They came to the event looking for something new, unsatisfied with their current positions. We told them both about all the employers that*

had been there that day. While they all made a great impression on them the one that stood out for both was Lucky Eagle Casino. It so happened Lucky Eagle was having a hiring event that very next Monday where they had a variety of positions in many different fields. We referred them over to the event and informed their HR representative that they would be attending. The day of the event they showed up and found the exact jobs that they had been looking for in a job search. One of them was hired in security with an aspiration to go through their EMT course and the other accepted a job at the hotel front desk. Neither job seeker had known about the Lucky Eagle hiring event before attending the WorkSource Lewis Pop-Up Event. It was great to see the synergy from the pop-up event translate over to another employer's hiring event and find some very nice people the jobs they had been searching.

Lewis County EP was working with an individual who had been referred by another participant who utilized WIOA services. This customer had been incarcerated for 35 years and was struggling to find employment with this significant background barrier. DVR had assisted him with getting CDL training, but he was having difficulty breaking into the field with no recent or relevant work experience. Employment Practitioner provided career guidance, coaching, and resource navigation to help with meeting basic needs as participant diligently looked for work. Participant was also connected to the Work Ready Navigator, who connected him with a WEX at The Moore Wright Group to provide current work experience to add to his resume. The WIOA Adult program provided transportation assistance to ensure participant was able to get to and from the worksite each day. This WEX was supposed to turn into an OJT, which did not come to fruition, but the experience he obtained while working there helped him secure another position at ADS as a Maintenance Worker. This position is expected to lead into a truck driving position as participant familiarizes himself with the business. He is earning \$20/hour and is now able to support himself free of any public assistance. He is so grateful for the support, guidance, and encouragement he received while enrolled in the WIOA Adult program.