

## **Board Member Activities and Alerts**

**More money to support Ostrom Mushroom Farm** closure. PacMtn received \$630,000 in Rapid Response Funds to offer assistance for employees impacted by the closure. Ostrom's employees speak a multitude of languages and PacMtn is committed to helping in culturally appropriate and effective ways. PacMtn will use Peer Navigators familiar with the Ostrom work environment and able to be a credible liaison with employees and effectively outreach into the community. This is a project wherein English language acquisition is an critical barrier removal activity.

**Key personnel coming and going** at PacMtn...Senior Associate Director Abigail Blue has hired Kelly Cobb to fill the position vacated by Jennica Machado. We are recruiting for that position and are delighted Kelly will continue to use her talents to support PacMtn's mission. Mike Horn has been chosen as the MyJOB Program Manager. Mike is an enthusiastic trainer and leader. He is a retired Army veteran committed to creating possibilities for the young people we serve.

**National Association of Workforce Boards Forum March 20-24** is the nation's premier workforce conference. It will be attended by Board Members Jacquelin Earley, Jonathan Pleger, Bill Sullivan, Kelli Bloomstrom and Jason Reed. They will be accompanied by Jage Curl, Cheryl Fambles and Abigail Blue.

**Retirement Succession Plan**...at the next Executive Finance Meeting CEO Fambles will discuss her plan for continued organizational excellence, stability and succession.

## **Program News**

**Project Phoenix**...Employment Security has announced they will end work on the replacement for ETO (Efforts to Outcomes), case management system. The decision was made after review of the status of the project, the possibilities of the partnership and the cost benefit analysis was conducted. It was a mutual, good faith decision between ESD and Monster Government Solutions (MGS). This decision was supported by Washington Workforce Association (WWA) who has also released a Request for Information to solicit product demonstrations of field-proven management information systems in workforce development. We need a system that manages information efficiently, provides necessary reports and manages the essential elements of our

relationship with customers. We must have a product that supports and highlights our quality services---not diminishes, stresses and frustrates those services and providers.

## **Stories of Lives Changed**

**My JOB** is focused on providing students opportunity in the skilled trades. My JOB student JJ has a top career interest in barbering. He is expected to release in April, so staff have been conducting research for barbering programs in the student's release area. Staff are supporting JJ's efforts to connect with Bates Technical College to further his education, enhance skills and gain a certification.

Daniel has been working with staff on his career interest in plumbing and speaking with current apprentices at the Seattle Area Pipe Trades- Local 26 and connecting him to the Basic Welding certificate program at SPSCC. Daniel is currently working in food services and is awaiting classes to begin at SPSCC.