

**WorkEx program news** – JBLM hosted United States Secretary of Labor Walsh on April 23, 2022. As a part of his visit, Secretary Walsh had the opportunity to meet with three participants of the WorkEx program. All proved to be strong ambassadors of the program and did an outstanding job representing its capacity and impact on transitioning service members. The Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, PacMtn’s strategic partner and leader of WorkEx, positioned this program well for national attention.

**Aviation Pathways** – this DoD SkillBridge and Army Career Skills program that provides training and certification for Airframe and PowerPlant mechanic service members transitioning out of the military launched a new program website in April. The site is used to as a support tool to help service members connect to training and high-way jobs in the region after separation.

In related news, the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce coordinated efforts with the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC), to expand the program’s capacity. PacMtn entered into an agreement with AJAC, who has committed financial support for this program, for the spring and fall cohorts. This strategy support has helped close a significant funding gap as a result of decreased private funding.

To learn more about both programs, please visit the PacMtn website (<https://pacmtn.org/investments/military/>).

**Governor Inslee** visited the Thurston County WorkSource, located in Tumwater, and PacMtn on March 18<sup>th</sup>. This visit was an opportunity for the Governor to connect directly with those are served in the PacMtn region and to connect with key partners in his Economic Security for All (EcSA) legislative efforts. The PacMtn board, area employers, Labor leaders, and key state agencies were included in the roundtable discussion. The conversation centered on recent funding activities for the EsCA program and how best to coordinate services. The Governor seemed to be particularly moved by the following success story:

My name is Inna Livingston – and this is my success story.

After a couple years of working temporary jobs and not being able to find an occupation that would provide for both of my financial and intellectual needs, I was referred to the Community Jobs Program.

The very first thing my case manager Nikki Crist asked was, “What are your needs? What can we help you with?” And help is exactly what I received. The program provides for continuous mentoring, cash assistance, and information about job

opportunities and other programs that were available to me. All of which are generously furnished by the state and federal governments.

There wasn't a single difficulty, either work related or personal, that I was able to discuss with my case manager. She offered solid advice and other support to help me navigate the program and reach my goals. Participating in the program, I realized I wasn't alone and that goodhearted people were on my side. Being in the Community Jobs Program and receiving its benefits helped me to focus on my job search and skill building instead of focusing on choosing between my career goals and paying my bills. I cannot say enough good things about Nikki Crist, Kim Baker, Jordan Meyenburg, Craig Clark and other Pacific Mountain employees and interns who were patient, compassionate and understanding. They helped me every step of the way. The program's incentives, Nikki's mentorship, PacMtn's internship, online skill-building classes, to mention a few, made me a confident, proficient and successful job seeker who eventually got more than one job offer.

I have accepted the best job for me and have a really good feeling about the position and the workplace.

**MOU/IFA discussions began in March**, as a result in updated state policy and adjustments to the funding of the One-Stop system. The One-Stop committee is providing guidance and direct board support for this effort. The changes to the agreement will focus on language around the state funding model (used when local negotiations fail), and funding distributions related to the One-Stop Operator. The update will also include a refresh on participant numbers, which basis for the distribution model for shared resources. The target completion and execution of agreement is June 30, 2022.

**WIOA 1b Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth RFP** launched on March 11<sup>th</sup> with proposals due April 1<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This unscheduled procurement was approved by the Executive Finance Committee meeting on the same day and is included in the April 28<sup>th</sup> consent agenda for full board consideration. The move was in direct response to a significant cut in the WIOA 1b formula funding for the state which will result in roughly a \$600k cut for the PacMtn allocation. Currently the funds are subcontracted to two providers, Career Path Services (Adult/DW) and Equus (Youth). A single contract is expected to save \$200-\$300k, with the gap being covered by similar cuts to the PacMtn administrative budget. The goal is to significantly reduce or eliminate cuts that reduce services for job seekers or employers.