

Each fall PacMtn honors a local employer that embodies the spirit of **Nancie Payne**, who was a tireless advocate for people with learning disabilities. The award will recognize workplace excellence and customer service, meaningful employee engagement, a constructive, diverse, and progressive workforce culture and organizations that commit themselves to better business management practices to ensure successful mission achievement. PacMtn Board members have the opportunity to nominate one recipient from their region. The Executive Finance Committee (EFC) will select the grand prize winner from the nominees, and all will be recognized at the Fall Regional Business Expo December 1, 2022.

Washington state was a successful applicant for the **QUEST National Dislocated Worker Grant**. The Employment Security led application was a joint effort with the state's 12 local workforce development boards (LWDB) which includes PacMtn. This Department of Labor (DOL) funded grant gives LWDBs the opportunity to scale-up support for key industry sectors that are struggling to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Key outcomes for the grant focus on strategic partnership development, business engagement and job seeker support. PacMtn will target the Food and Accommodation, Food Production, and Specialty Manufacturing sectors. The Business and Sector Engagement Committee will guide the strategic planning for the grant activities locally. The grant period is September 2022 - September 2024 and PacMtn award will be proximately \$1 million. Additional details can be found on the DOL website [here](#).

Work is underway for the upcoming **PacMtn Spring Retreat** planned for late February at the Alderbrook Resort & Spa in Union, WA. At the September 23, 2022 Fall Board Retreat, Doug Mah, of Doug Mah Associates, led a half-day retreat to set the stage for the spring event. Prior to the September meeting, Board members were surveyed to learn more about their experiences serving on the Board to help shape the conversation at the afternoon's events. The agenda included vision setting around One Workforce, the survey results, and small group discussions focused on a culture of accountability, organizational effectiveness, knowledge and skill development, and Board member satisfaction. A final report including recommendations will be presented by Mr. Mah at the November 10, 2022, EFC meeting and the full board meeting November 17, 2022. The full report and survey results will be available via the PacMtn website in mid-November. Spring Retreat event details will be shared in late October as they are finalized.

Program Year 2023 **WorkSource PacMtn Memo of Understand** (MOU) planning has begun with the intention of having the MOU and the Infrastructure Funding agreement (IFA) full executed by the state's March 2023 deadline. The MOU/IFA will be effective July 1st, 2023 – June 2026. The agreement is subject to state policies [1023, R2](#) and [1024, R2](#) and will align to PacMtn local plan. The full schedule of events will be available in late October.

Stories of Impact and Meaning

Participant had an interview with AmeriCorps on 9/9 and received a follow up email asking for additional information and when she would be able to start. She does not have personal transportation and will need to take public transportation to get to and from this new position. She was very hesitant to do so, so her TR offered to meet her and travel with her on the bus from Centralia to Tumwater and then to the Thurston Office so that she can become familiar with the process. She completed her per-employment on 9/26 and will be working as a cleaner in the Centralia Hospital making \$21/hr. OSY: Participant is finally getting ready to head off to college. During her time with us, she passed all 4 GED tests, obtained her GED, was accepted to a post-secondary veterinarian program in Oregon, found a job (and rose through the ranks at the speed of sound), and is finally getting ready to start this next chapter of her life. She is incredibly excited and thankful for the assistance and support she has received by this program.

Olympia Computer currently has an on-the-job trainee, 17-year-old Gabriel Marbourg, placed by the Thurston Chamber who paired his education with a training scholarship. "He is a very fast learner and has already shown amazing people skills." "We feel very lucky to have found someone with both tech and people skills," says CEO Erik Johnson. "And Gabe has shown real interest in getting both work experience and the training we can provide in hardware repair, server management, and networking. Today I see a different kind of employee, one less motivated by money or future opportunities but more motivated by what we used to call perks like free food in the break room, flexible hours, and the chance to be creative." The OJT program is mutually beneficial, continues Johnson. "Interesting, challenging, and meaningful work with a dynamic company like Olympia Computer is good for your interns but helping those interns grow and gather the life-long skill sets that prepare them to work anywhere is extremely rewarding for us as well. It's that ultimate win/win for which we continually strive."