

The year is off to a great start! PacMtn hosted the **Washing Workforce Association's 2023 Legislative Day**, the associations first ever hill climb. There was a strong showing by association members, key partners and PacMtn area employers that visited with 26 legislators from both houses. Workforce development was a key topic with nearly all of those visited, and PacMtn board member and workforce develop lead for Sierra Pacific Industries, Jaquelin Earley's work with Emma School District was the highlight of the day. More details, including a short video of highlights can be found on PacMtn's social media.

PacMtn's annual program monitoring kicked off in early January with an expected closing in early February. The state's Employment Security Department (ESD) conducts the annual monitoring to evaluate program and financial controls, as well board related policies, including the system MOU/IFA and the WorkSource certification efforts. This year also marks the first time that ESD will self-monitor the Labor Exchange and Wagner-Peyser programs. These programs provide essential career services in the WorkSource system and have similar outcomes to Title 1 b funding. With PacMtn in transition related to One-Workforce, we anticipate a heightened focus on the system design and related policies.

Planning has begun on the **Quest programming effort**. This pandemic recovery focused programming will target the Hospitality, Food Production, and Specialty Manufacturing sectors. The program design includes job seeker services in training, work experience and support, and funding to develop and scale strategies to support these sectors. Included in the latter, and with guidance from the Business and Sector Engagement committee (BaSE), PacMtn staff will develop and release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to support localized efforts for engaging employers and jobseekers. The RFP will target EDCs, Chambers of Commerce, training and education partners, employers and employer associations, community-based organizations, and agencies connected to workforce development. The BaSE committee develop criteria related to the submissions related to the amount of funding, types of supported programming, employer support requirements and consortium focused models. The RFP will be release March 1, 2023 with a target distribution of the nearly \$300,000 in funding as early as mid-May 2023. The funding supports work for 1 year from award.

Planning for the **February 23, 2023, Board Meeting and Retreat** are well underway. This year's retreat will be held at the Alderbrook Resort & Spa in Union, WA. While remote participation in the Board meeting will be an option, to participate in the retreat activities will

only be available in person. The Day's agenda will be released with the Board packet on 2/17/2023. Key agenda items include:

- Welcome and networking event with breakfast
- The February joint Board and Consortium meeting
- Doug Mah and Associates, LLC Final report related to fall survey
- Lunch and Keynote presentation on Hope by Jon Tunheim, Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney
- 2 afternoon session related to the development of the 2024-2027 local plan

Overnight accommodations are still available and are included at no cost for Board or Consortium members - as well as other travel related costs. If you have yet to respond to the RSVP, please do by 2/18/2023.

PacMtn CEO William Westmoreland was nominated and elected as the **Treasurer of the Washington Workforce Association (WWA)** for 2023. WWA is a member organization comprised of Washington states Local Workforce Development Executive Directors with a focus on policy, professional development, and advocacy.

Employment Security Department announced in January the pending release of **Federal-based Economic Security** for All funding. Local funding forecast amount is approximately \$350K which will be used to scale up the state funded EcSA programming. Contracts and funds should be available for subcontractors in late March.

Stories of Impact and Meaning

Provided by our partners at Equus Workforce Solutions

A participant applied for the WIOA Dislocated Worker program after her Workforce Development Specialist position of 5 years ended the summer of 2022. She decided to pursue training in human resource management, and enrolled with South Puget Sound Community College's online certificate program. She was also enrolled in the EcSA (Economic Security for All) grant and was financially supported thru her efforts completing employment related tasks/activities. She has accepted a case management position with Area Agency on Aging, where she will excel in her new role with her prior workforce development skills and newly acquired human resource management certificates.

Client is a single father who became unemployed when he lost his job at the local Wal-Mart. He attended the WIOA Orientation and was set on getting his CDL Class A to support him, his son and his fiancé. He attended the Cohort through the Grays Harbor Collage and was delighted when he passed the class in December. He attended the job fair the same day as his graduation that was put on by the Thurston County Chamber and was encouraged to reach out to Sunbelt for an official interview. He is currently in the process of completing his background check and drug screen and will have a self-sustaining wage job once this process is complete. Not only does he have a career where he can now take care of his family, he will be home every night to help his son with his homework and to be there for all of the ball practices, which was very important to this participant.