

- The September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Fall Retreat agenda is set and will include a day of pre-retreat activities focused on new board member orientation and poverty simulation (presented by Leadership Thurston County). The event will be hosted by Grays Harbor College at their new culinary arts and student convening space. The day of the retreat includes a joint Board and Consortium meeting, updates on the 2100 campaign and One Workforce, reporting and dashboards for the 4-year plan and information on training capacity gaps. The joint board meeting and retreat are open to the public. Members of the general public who wish to participate are encouraged to express their interest ahead of time (for food and spacing planning) via email at [info@pacmtn.org](mailto:info@pacmtn.org).
- In August, PacMtn hosted a Labor Convening led by Christina Riley (PacMtn Board Treasurer). Jared Ross and Lori Thompson (PacMtn Board Vice Chair) shared an update on the upcoming Try-A-Trade event schedule in October. The group also discussed next steps for collaboration and formalizing the partnership under a Memo of Understanding. The agreement will articulate the short and long-term goals, engagement details, and identify the partners. The collaboration to date initiated the Try-A-Trade event, has raised awareness to potential partnership opportunities, and opened a shared dialog that increases Labor's input into the local workforce system.
- PacMtn and both the Lewis and Thurston County Untied Ways have been in conversation on improving the connection to resources for those in need. Barrier mitigation and access to resources to support basic needs are key elements in a successful workforce development model. Coordinating those resources can be a challenge and puts those seeking assistance on a complicated journey. Looking to the success of the Centers for Strong Families in Pierce County, PacMtn seeks to establish a core team to develop a similar model in our communities. Initially, we're focusing on Workforce Development, financial and digital literacy, and core basic needs such as housing, food, and childcare security.

- In early August, PacMtn hosted the Center of Excellence for Homeland Security and Emergency Management (COE). The focus was their annual workplan, workforce development and the branding for the center. There was much discussion on how to identify the sector, specifically how community resiliency plays into much of the work for those occupations under the COE. While there is pushback from COE leadership at the state level, there is a clear movement away from “homeland security” and a pivot towards “resiliency”. The occupations covered by the center include both private and public occupations making this distinction important if complicated.
- During the early part of the summer, PacMtn opened two Requests for Proposals (RFP), Youth Services and By & For (Commerce Reinvestment Program). Notices of award are available on the PacMtn website. While both procurements netted fundable programs, unallocated funds remain available in both programs. A second round for Youth is planned for late fall and will include a series of pre-release convenings to support smaller organizations wishing to apply. For the unallocated funds for the By & For program, PacMtn is in conversation with Commerce and key partners to consider an alternate approach for the use of funds based upon successful models in other parts of the state. More to come on both in early October.
- Something Big is coming to the PacMtn region. A small group of marketing and communications folks have been working hard on developing a communications plan for the region’s 2100 campaign – which is focused upon placing 2100 folks into high skill, high wage opportunities over the next four years. More to come at the fall retreat later this month. Just another reason to participate in the retreat!

## Stories of Hope and Impact

Shared from our partners at Equus:

“Participant enrolled into WIOA programs as a veteran. He attended the ANEW Construction Cohort training, successfully completing his OSHA10, Flagger and Forklift certifications. He

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began his job search with credentials and obtained a great position with the Thurston County Solid Waste Department, making \$24.91/hr.”

“Two participants got enrolled in OSY, Adult, State and Fed EcSA. They were a young houseless couple with 2 dependents when they enrolled in WIOA youth programs. Participant 1 worked with their case manager to create a resume to get hired at Cooks Hill Childcare center. WIOA programs supported her in completing her CPR/blood born pathogens and STARS education as well as work clothing so she could start working as a daycare teacher. Participant 2 and their case manager created a working resume for him to apply to multiple jobs in the area. WIOA supported him in purchasing a driver’s license as well as work clothing so he could begin working at Mohawk Industries as a laborer. Participants gained stable housing and now have dual income to support their dependents.”