

The relocation of the **Thurston WorkSource** office to the new Lacey Hub is moving forward with greater clarity, although holiday scheduling is pushing several activities out by roughly two weeks. Based on current timelines, PacMtn's Title I-B and sector strategy teams are expected to occupy the space in early February, with ESD and other state partners joining soon after as their agency-specific occupation processes are completed. The master lease for 670 Woodland Loop is now fully executed, and we have a preliminary layout for offices, meeting spaces, and office systems prepared for agency review the week of November 17. Permitting is underway and bid packets for construction are in out for bid. The next set of activities includes finalizing layout and design approvals, completing sublease agreements, and preparing for the buildout phase to begin in early December.

We held a successful **Fall Convening** in late September that brought board members, partners, and regional leaders together for timely discussion and planning. The group reviewed the impacts of ongoing federal and state budget challenges, toured the new Thurston WorkSource location in the Lacey Hub, and engaged directly with two of this year's BIG Award winners. The convening also included a focused strategy session, feedback on the emerging career pathway planning tool scheduled for release in mid-December, and final alignment on the High Road Employer and Quality Jobs recognition program.

The **Annual Report** was published in late September and is available in the Reports and Resources section of the PacMtn website. To reduce costs, we produced an electronic version this year. The content mirrors prior reports and highlights program outcomes, Opportunity Begins Here, sector strategies, and a fiscal overview. The updated format is more interactive and links to the details behind the report, giving readers a clearer view of the work underway across the region. The Regional Impact Reports, released as a companion to the annual report, provide county-level snapshots that highlight local outcomes, investments, and community impact across the PacMtn region are also available in the reports area of the PacMtn website.

Our **Annual Presentations** of the report to county commissioners and community partners are underway. We have delivered public presentations in Grays Harbor and Mason counties and have scheduled a session in Lewis County. Thurston and Pacific counties are expected to be scheduled soon. Board member participation has been strong, and the accompanying community visits have provided valuable conversations with local employers and partners across the region.

As chair of the **Washington Workforce Association**, I helped lead and participate in the annual fall retreat, which brought together workforce leaders from across the state to discuss the state and federal budget challenges, align on legislative priorities,

and identify shared funding opportunities. We also spent time planning for WWA's fall conference, centered on the theme "Innovate. Elevate. Accelerate."

PacMtn was proud to sponsor the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce's annual regional "**Future of Work**" convening in early October. Held at Saint Martin's University, the event brought employers and key partners together to discuss priorities related to talent and workforce needs. The convening featured strong presentations and provided a valuable forum for collaboration and shared insight.

Q1 Success Story

During Quarter 1 of Program Year 2025, Equus Workforce Solutions focused on stabilizing program staffing, strengthening co-enrollment processes, and expanding access to training and supportive services for EcSA participants. Key gains included improved employment outcomes, increased credential attainment, and stronger coordination between EcSA and WIOA Adult/DW programs.

A Thurston County participant was recently laid off and experiencing financial strain while pursuing a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Community Development certificate—training closely aligned with regional workforce needs. Without support, their ability to continue the program was in jeopardy.

Support Provided:

- Co-enrollment in WIOA Adult/DW and EcSA
- Childcare assistance to stabilize family needs
- ITA funding to complete the GIS certificate

Outcome:

The participant successfully completed the training, earned the credential, and was rehired by their previous employer in a higher-level role that recognized their new skills.

Result:

This story highlights how EcSA resources help displaced workers stay engaged in education and return to work with improved career mobility and earning potential.