



**SERVING KITTITAS,
Klickitat, Skamania
& YAKIMA COUNTIES**

Upcoming events:

- August 8 +9: Costco Call Center Hiring Event at Yakima Convention Center
- August 18: South Central Employer Engagement Meeting at 9:00 am (location TBD)
- August 26: WorkSource Ellensburg Ribbon Cutting at 10:00 am
- September 1: New Yakima WorkSource location opening
- September 14: Perry Tech Job Fair
- September 27: WorkSource Yakima Resource Fair 10 am to 3 pm at WorkSource

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South Central Workforce Council

Employer Engagement Network Newsletter

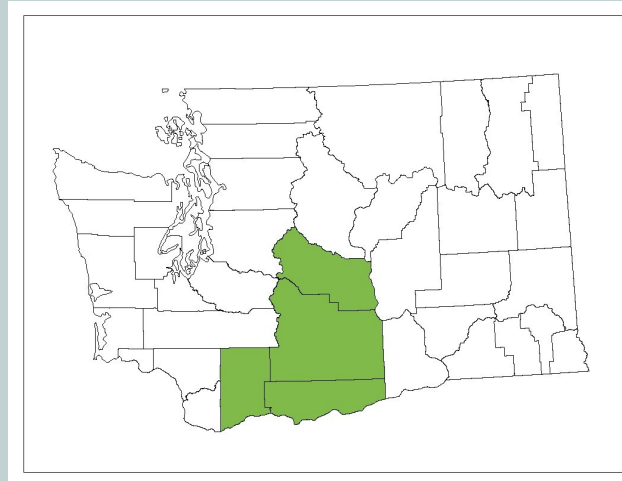
July 28, 2016

Volume 1, Issue 1

Our First Employer Engagement Newsletter

Welcome to our first South Central Employer Engagement Network newsletter! At our most recent Employer Engagement meeting on Thursday, July 21st, the group

agreed upon a monthly newsletter to distribute to all agencies in our network.



The goal of the newsletter is to align and coordinate our efforts when engaging employers, as well as provide updates on Network activities and information on upcoming events. Please distribute this newsletter to any staff participating in outreach to employers.

Menu of Services

Washington State's strategic plan Talent and Prosperity for All calls for "creating a common brand and a clear, plain language menu of options that helps drive more businesses to the workforce system." Under this framework, the Employer Engagement Network has been developing a menu of services in an effort to encourage more employers to utilize the workforce system and its services. Network partners have been extremely valuable in helping simplify our complex system of services to create an employer friendly brochure. After the final content of the menu is agreed upon, it will be sent to a designer to produce a professional, aesthetically pleasing menu of services for use when engaging employers.

Internship Portal

Members of the Employer Engagement Network have been approached about the possibility of an online resource for finding interns. At our last Network meeting, it was suggested that we create a unique job site strictly for local companies offering internships and people seeking intern positions. The first step in this process is to identify a need from companies, so please share any companies that regularly offer or seek interns with the Network. Once we have identified enough interested businesses we will begin developing a website to serve as an internship portal for Yakima.



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Justin Merrell

South Central Workforce Council
120 South 3rd Street, Suite 200-A
Yakima, WA 98901

Phone: 509-574-1950

Fax: 509-574-1951

justin.merrell@co.yakima.wa.us

www.southcentralwdc.com

Network Members

- ◆ South Central Workforce Council
- ◆ WorkSource/Employment Security Department
- ◆ Greater Yakima Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Department of Social and Health Services
- ◆ Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
- ◆ Yakima Valley College
- ◆ People for People
- ◆ OIC of Washington
- ◆ Northwest Community Action Center
- ◆ Fort Simcoe Job Corps
- ◆ New Vision
- ◆ Skamania County Economic Development
- ◆ Klickitat County Economic Development

Other Employer Engagement Activities

The South Central Employer Engagement Network is assisting a consortium of manufacturers in Bingen/White Salmon, WA with incumbent worker training. Richard Foster, Klickitat County Economic Development, has been tremendously helpful in convening manufacturing companies in the area to discuss their needs, desired trainings, and ensuring training requirements are met. The manufacturing consortium will be offering micro-electronic soldering training to a mix of around 20 employees. We are excited to move forward with the training and offer more in the future.

WorkSource is moving . . . again! WorkSource will be relocating to a brand new facility in the Ahtanum Business Park in Union Gap (1205 Ahtanum Ridge Drive). Their offices will be closed August 29-31 and will re-open in their new, shiny home on September 1st.

In order to increase the value of our monthly Employer Engagement Network meetings, we will begin inviting speakers to present to the Network to increase our awareness and knowledge of the workforce needs and programs in our area. Please share any speaker suggestions you may have with the Network so we can begin putting them on the docket.

It has also been suggested that we begin hosting our Network meetings at various partner agencies in order to gain a better understanding of our Network as a whole. If you would like to volunteer to host a meeting, please contact Justin.

Next Meeting: Our next Employer Engagement Network Meeting will be Thursday, August 18th at 9 am with a location yet to be determined. Please inform Justin Merrell if you cannot attend.

Important events, announcements, and ideas

If you have any important events or announcements you would like included in next month's newsletter, please contact Justin Merrell (justin.merrell@co.yakima.wa.us / 509-574-1950).

As we develop the newsletter further, we will continue to add elements such as success stories, LMEA data, and upcoming grant opportunities. If you have any other ideas or suggestions for the South Central Employer Engagement Network Newsletter (such as a more imaginative title!) please share them with Justin.

The South Central Workforce Council is an equal opportunity employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons of disability,

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