Welcome to the Workforce Excellence Newsletter!

Our focus is to bring you updates and changes taking place through Workforce Development that impact you and the local community. We look forward to hearing your feedback.

Olympic College has been a strong partner in helping educate our workforce. We are fortunate that the Navy has such a strong relationship with the local college... [and] we anticipate that the partnership will continue for many years to come.

Capt. Pete Dawson, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Kitsap

See Military Tribute article, pg 3

WorkFirst is Washington State’s temporary cash assistance program. The main goal of the program is to help low-income families stabilize their lives, so they can go to work and take better care of their families. Community and technical colleges, such as Olympic College, offer a range of vocational and high wage-high demand training options that support WorkFirst parents in completing career pathways that lead to self-sufficiency.

Each year, a number of Olympic College WorkFirst students proudly walk the stage at the commencement ceremony to receive hard-earned degrees. OC is pleased to announce that 19 WorkFirst students earned a two-year Associate’s degree in June 2013! Of those students, one individual received the President’s Scholars award, which requires a GPA of 3.9-4.0, and two individuals received the Dean’s Scholars award, which requires a GPA of 3.5-3.89. Also, at the Spring Awards Ceremony, 37 WorkFirst students received awards; six received President’s Honors and five received Dean’s Honors. Congratulations to those students who overcame great hurdles to accomplish their educational goals!

Olympic College’s Air Washington program offers training in

Electronics • Manufacturing • Composites

For more information, contact Stephanie Thompson at 360.475.7839 or sthompson2@olympic.edu

www.olympic.edu/Students/WFDBS/WFD/AirWA
**Air WA Supports Real World Job Skills**

Olympic College is one year into the Air Washington project, a $2.2 million grant received from the U.S. Department of Labor to expand and enhance aerospace training opportunities. For OC, Air Washington breathed new life into the Electronics, Manufacturing-Precision Machining, and Composites Manufacturing Technology programs.

Aside from providing some new equipment and machinery, the grant has paid for curriculum enhancement, faculty, and needed building renovations. A unique feature of this funding allows for extensive student support services. This is related to pre-enrollment, individualized advising and assessment, assistance with program retention and beyond, when students leave OC and set out on their own to find employment. Both before and after program completion, students are immersed with messaging related to the need to actively engage in job search activities related to improving their employment status – some of them are even finding work before they graduate!

Beginning Winter quarter, low skilled adults will have the opportunity to benefit from I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training), considered a national best practice in the higher education communities. This program provides students with the benefit of co-teaching faculty, one for technical skills training and one for math or writing literacy. All students have equal opportunity for some extra support, if needed, without anyone in particular being identified as specifically needing the assistance.

Local employers often lament a lack of “soft skills” in their prospective workforce. A primary goal of this grant has enabled OC to offer pre-employment training presently free of charge to students, specifically focused on safety, communication strategies in the workplace, the ability to read for information, locate information, and apply math. These classes are offered on Saturdays to current and/or future students in the Air Washington program. Upon completion of the pre-employment portion of the training, students could leave the program with two industry recognized credentials, including OSHA 10 and the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC).

Partnership with industry is key to the success of this grant and the sustainability of these programs after the grant ends in September 2014. Employers keep OC informed on what is needed in the local workforce and ideally would engage with students via internships, work experiences, field trips, or guest lecturing. By engaging with students, employers would have an edge on hiring the best and brightest graduates. The benefits to students are also increased with real work knowledge, and an increased awareness of job prospects before program completion.

If you are interested in learning more about the Air Washington project, please contact Stephanie Thompson at sthompson2@olympic.edu or 360.475.7839.

**California Company Brings Additional Aerospace Manufacturing Jobs to Kitsap County**

Omohundro is a company based out of Orange County, California that manufactures aerospace composites hardware. They plan to open operations in Port Orchard, Washington on September 1st. A key component of the company’s decision to move to the region was the availability of a qualified workforce associated with the defense facilities in the area, and the Composites Manufacturing Technology program available through Olympic College.

Earlier this year, Omohundro worked closely with Olympic College workforce development staff to review the training programs, meet with faculty and hold a hiring event on campus. Omohundro representatives were very impressed by what they saw. As a result, seven people were hired and brought to California to train. It is anticipated that by year’s end, there will be approximately 40 Omohundro employees at the Port Orchard location. OC hopes to fill these spots with graduates from their two quarter Composites Manufacturing program. Stephanie Thompson, Air Washington Grant Manager, sees first-hand the impact this short term training has had for OC students. She said, “This is just one example of how education and industry collaboration can open doors for economic development and provide life-changing opportunities for people.”
Organizational Leadership & Resource Management Employer Panel

On April 23, approximately 60 individuals attended a panel presentation on the Bremerton campus, coordinated by the Career Center, which featured five representatives from the local organizational leadership and resource management industry. The focus of the forum was on available employment opportunities for workers who are trained in that field and other similar disciplines, and on how students could improve their job search skills to more effectively find employment.

The panel, which was moderated by Dr. Philip Mathew (OC OLRM Faculty), included representatives from Brandman University, Bremerton City Council, Peninsula Credit Union, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, and Twiss Analytical Labs. Human Resources representatives were also present to answer any questions regarding hiring processes.

Panel members discussed the future of the field and explained how students can prepare themselves for a successful entrance into the workforce. After the moderated program concluded, students were able to network individually with panelists and gather business cards and applications to take the next steps in the hiring process.

Thank You

The Career Center staff thanks these professionals for participating in the OLRM Spring ‘13 employer panel!

Shannon Frith ............... Brandman University
Greg Wheeler ............... Bremerton City Council
Chalcy Blake ............... Peninsula Credit Union
Glennon Jenne ............. Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility
Steve Twiss ............... Twiss Analytical Labs

Tribute to Veterans and Active Duty Military Ceremony

Over 200 individuals from the Pacific Northwest attended a military appreciation ceremony held at Olympic College on May 21. The annual ceremony honored local veterans and active duty service members who are furthering their education at the College, and coincided with the City of Bremerton’s Military Appreciation Day.

"We’re proud to have the opportunity to serve military and their dependents,” said Dr. David Mitchell, Olympic College President. "[1,651] veterans attended Olympic College this year. That's close to 20% of our student population."

The guest speakers for the event included Dr. Mitchell; Captain Pete Dawson, commanding officer Naval Base Kitsap; and Captain David Kohnke, commander Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport. "This College, using its own resources, time and personnel has opened its Veteran and Military Support Center," said Dawson. "Our education system gives America its advantage ... we have to keep our education system strong."

"We live in a community that not only understands but embraces the military," said Kohnke. "Olympic College has been a strong partner in helping educate our workforce. We are fortunate that the Navy has such a strong relationship with the local college... [and] we anticipate that the partnership will continue for many years to come."

The 2014 Military Friendly Schools list released in mid-September, honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities, and trade schools that do the most to ensure the success of military service members, veterans, and spouses. Olympic College is among the twenty-seven Washington community and technical colleges that are included in that list.
“On Your Mark, Get Set, Grow! Creative Ways to Align Workforce Programs for Economic Prosperity” Community Forum

In June, Olympic College, the Mason County Economic Development Council, and the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council hosted an event in Shelton called, “On Your Mark, Get Set, Grow! Creative Ways to Align Workforce Programs for Economic Prosperity.” The purpose of this interactive event was to explore the ways in which OC can serve as a catalyst to drive economic vitality in Mason County/Shelton.

Over 60 people representing business, government, and education leaders attended the forum, which began with a panel discussion. Four business leaders provided a brief overview of their organizations, described any future challenges and opportunities, and explained how higher education fits into their company’s vision for development for current and future employees. The panel included Bob Griffith, a Manager at Olympic Panel Products; Eric Moll, CEO of Mason General Hospital & FC; Bill Taylor, CEO of Taylor Shellfish; and James Thomas, Owner/President of MasQs Inc.

After the panel discussion, the keynote speaker, Jason Robertson of J Robertson and Company, discussed the important role that economic development and higher education play in improving the economic climate. Event attendees were asked to participate in a strengths and gap brainstorming activity, as well as table discussions focusing on current and future opportunities and challenges. The group also discussed the development of current and future employees and the new technology trends that will be critical for their particular field.

All in all, the event was a great success. The meeting provided the collaboration necessary for businesses and higher education institutions to improve the alignment of their individual programs. Partnerships between employers and colleges will benefit employers by providing them with qualified employees and will benefit the community by creating good, family-wage employment opportunities.

A Road to the Classroom for Career and Technical Industry Professionals

On March 8, Olympic College’s Certificate for Career and Technical Education Teacher Preparation Certificate (CTE Certification) was approved by the Washington State Professional Educators Standards Board (PESB) in Bellingham, Washington.

The CTE Certification program will provide instruction to industry professionals who wish to become K-12 teachers in the schools and districts throughout the Jefferson, Kitsap, Clallam, and Mason counties, as well as beyond. There currently are other certification programs similar to this one available in Washington State, but they are located across the Puget Sound and at inconvenient distances for the teachers in the local area. Coupled with the industry-rich location in which Olympic College and its surrounding school districts are set, this program comes at an opportune time for industry professionals who wish to transition to the classroom.

The program will also offer courses on a case-by-case basis, as approved by district CTE directors, to professionals who are already teaching to help keep them maintain their certification. By doing this, students in the local school districts are ensured to receive the most up-to-date and highest quality education in the industry field of their choosing.

This $2,500 certification (for all courses) was launched in July 2013, and classes are continuing throughout the 2013-14 school year. Representative content will include: (1) Introduction to CTE Teacher Education Program; (2) Instructional Strategies; (3) Course Organization and Curriculum Development; (4) Personal Student Development and Leadership Techniques; (5) History and Philosophy of Career and Technical Education; (6) Occupational Analysis; (7) School Law and Diversity; (8) Safety in the Classroom; (9) Role and Responsibility of the CTE Teacher; (10) Using Technology in the Classroom; (11) Culminating CTE Teacher Project; (12) Work-based Learning Coordination Techniques; and (13) Field Experience.
18th Annual
OLYMPIC COLLEGE COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Save The Date
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2013

11:00 - 11:45 a.m. Networking Coffee
11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Luncheon Program

Donations raised for Olympic College support our mission to provide quality, affordable, local education in our communities.

For more information, please contact the Olympic College Foundation office at [360] 475-7120

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