



The Workforce Investment Board serving the City of Portland, Washington and Multnomah counties.

Worksystems, the Workforce Investment Board for the City of Portland, Washington and Multnomah counties, has a long and deep partnership with the region's community colleges – Portland Community College (PCC) and Mount Hood Community College (MHCC). Since the inception of the Workforce Investment Act in 1998, Worksystems has invested more than \$100 million dollars in our community colleges who serve as the primary providers of career development and professional education services in our regions public workforce development system – WorkSource Portland Metro. Together, we have trained and placed tens of thousands of local residents and built a system that is responsive to the needs of regional workers and employers.

WorkSource Portland Metro

WorkSource Portland Metro is the local one-stop system of employment and training services and offices. College staff, supported by contracts with Worksystems, provides direct services in 4 of the region's 5 Worksource Centers to help job seekers reconnect with the labor market or move-up in their careers. Typical in-center services delivered by college staff include: career planning, work readiness training, academic skill development, workshop facilitation, job retention and other support services.

Professional education services and occupation specific skill development are also offered through scholarships and customized training usually delivered by the colleges either on a college campus or an employer worksite.

WorkSource Portland Metro Beaverton-Hillsboro is actually housed on the PCC Willow-Creek campus and served more than 23,000 people last year. All told, more than 135,000 people engaged with the region's WorkSource system last year representing the largest pool of potential students in the State.

Some Key Accomplishments

Career Pathways: Worksystems was the initial funder and key partner in the development of career pathways. Today, Career Pathways are available throughout the State of Oregon and are recognized nationally as an effective model to enable individuals to secure a job or advance in a demand industry or occupation.

Manufacturing Foundations: Worksystems was the initial funder and key partner in the development of Manufacturing Foundations, a short-term occupational training program that incorporates up-front industry engagement leading to very high employment rates for training completers. Employers contribute to the cost of these programs, are involved in the design, and engaged in the selection of students who go through training. The employers then interview program graduates, leading to employment for most students.

Entry Level High Tech: Worksystems was a key funder and partner in the development of this seven week micro-electronics training program that provided instruction to English as a Second Language participants. Students from WorkSource were trained in communication skills, diversity in the

workplace, safety, quality, workplace math and measurements, blueprint reading, and soldering. At the end of the course, students were interviewed by partner companies resulting in 87% being hired into full time employment. Partner companies were Merix, Benchmark, Vanguard EMS, and Matsushita.

Genentech Recruitment: Working with regional economic developers, Worksystems and the colleges worked together to develop and deliver new curriculum, students and workers to support the new Genentech facility in Hillsboro, OR. This was the first biomedical manufacturing plant built in Oregon and represented a company investment of \$400 million and a workforce of approximately 250.

Emerging Opportunities

The Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative: Is a unique partnership that delivers a unified approach to serve industry and support economic development. The Collaborative offers a number of opportunities for the colleges and the region's Workforce Investment Boards to work together to coordinate employer engagement, develop industry intelligence and align efforts around common industry-driven goals.

WorkReady Communities/Talent Link: Worksystems has been charged by the Governor to establish the region as "certified work ready" and thereby better position us to meet employers' workforce needs. To accomplish this goal, Worksystems convened an array of partners, including the colleges, to develop and launch Talent Link. Using the National Career Readiness Certificate and other tools, Talent Link creates a framework shared by WorkSource partners and employers that strengthens our ability to prepare job seekers and to meet employers' workforce needs.

Aligned Partners Network (APN). The Aligned Partner Network connects the public workforce system and local agencies to provide a coordinated progression of services that help disadvantaged and underserved populations move into career-track employment. This model integrates the strengths and services offered by the various partners within WorkSource, including community colleges, Employment Department, and over 20 community based organizations into a collaborative and systemic approach.

WorkSource-College Cohort Training: In order to meet the needs of targeted populations within the public workforce system, Worksystems is partnering with community colleges to develop cohort-based trainings for specific customer populations, and collaborating in the recruitment, wrap-around services, and placement of these customers. This model capitalizes on the strengths of college programs that integrate Adult Basic Skills with occupational skills training.

40-40-20: The 40-40-20 goal is for 40% of adult Oregonians to hold a bachelor's or advanced degree, 40% to have an associate's degree or a meaningful postsecondary certificate, and all adult Oregonians to hold a high school diploma or equivalent by the year 2025. The goal is incorporated into the region's workforce strategic plan and provides a number of opportunities for the colleges, WorkSource Portland Metro and the WIB to work together to support the achievement of the goal.

Manufacturing Industry - Regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Board: The Advisory Board evolved out of the 2013-2015 Manufacturing Workforce Plan developed in partnership with local industry through the Columbia Willamette Workforce Collaborative. The purpose of the Advisory Board is to work collaboratively among industry, secondary, and post-secondary education to inform and strengthen regional CTE programs.