



Worksystems, the Portland Metro Workforce Development Board, has a long and deep partnership with Portland Community College (PCC). Since opening our doors in 1998, Worksystems has invested nearly **\$85 million** in PCC who serves as the primary provider of career development and professional education services in the Washington County and Central Portland offices of our region's one-stop workforce development system – WorkSource Portland Metro. Together, we have trained and placed tens of thousands of residents and built a regional 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. PCC staff, supported by contracts with Worksystems, provides direct services in 3 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 PCC either on a PCC facility or an employer worksite.

WorkSource Portland Metro Beaverton-Hillsboro is housed on the PCC Willow-Creek campus and served **9,585** people last year. All told, more than **80,000** people engaged with the region's WorkSource system last year representing an enormous pool of potential PCC students.

Some Key Accomplishments

Over the years, we have worked together to launch several successful programs. Among the highlights:

Career Pathways: Worksystems was an initial investor 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.

Entry Level High Tech: Worksystems was a key funder and partner in the development of this 7-week micro-electronics training program that provided instruction to English as a Second Language learners. 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 PCC worked together to develop and deliver curriculum, students, and workers to support the new Genentech facility in Hillsboro. This was the first biomedical manufacturing plant built in Oregon and represented a company investment of approximately \$400 million.

Bridge Programs - As part of our efforts to respond to regional industry needs, and prepare the Emergent Workforce for post-secondary education and work, Worksystems supported the development of Career Bridge programs to expose and prepare young people to begin careers in our targeted industry sectors - Healthcare, Advanced Manufacturing, Tech/Software, and Infrastructure.

Future Connect – Our involvement with Future Connect began with Mayor Adams and a significant seed contribution to the Portland Community College foundation. Over the years, we have continued to support Future Connect Scholars by contributing to the fund and prioritizing scholars for SummerWorks and paid internships.

Opportunities for Additional Collaboration

The Columbia-Willamette Workforce Collaborative (CWWC): Is a unique partnership that delivers a unified approach to serve targeted industry sectors and support economic development. The Collaborative offers a number of opportunities for PCC and the region's Workforce Development Boards to work together to coordinate industry engagement, improve industry intelligence and align efforts around common industry-driven goals.

- **Industry Engagement:** As part of our work with the CWWC, we convene employer-led industry groups to identify workforce challenges, pursue shared solutions, target workforce investments and monitor results. These Industry Panels represent a significant opportunity to align/coordinate industry engagement efforts and streamline business outreach efforts.
- **Industry Intelligence:** Another component of the CWWC is sector specific research. We have a team of 4 Economists who are committed to providing high quality data to guide training investments and advance the region's capacity to understand and align regional workforce supply with industry demand. In addition, we convene a group of nearly 40 regional data experts (including representatives from PCC) to share ideas and align efforts.

WorkReady Communities/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 to enter the labor market and/or pursue occupational training.

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, the Oregon Employment Department, the Department of Human Services, and over 25 community-based organizations into a team approach to build skills and achieve economic success.



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

- **Maritime Welding Course** – Worksystems partnered with PCC and Vigor to support a six-month marine welding training to track aspiring welders into employment with Vigor. Individuals were recruited from WorkSource and community partners. 21 students will graduate in August and interview with Vigor for employment opportunities.
- **Certified Production Technician Course** – Worksystems has funded and coordinated six Certified Production Technician courses out of the PCC Willow Creek Center. The course gives students a portable, nationally recognized industry certification and the manufacturing knowledge base necessary for success in the industry and continued education. Each class includes company tours, guest speakers and a graduation with employer networking event.

Data Tracking and Program Reporting – I-Trac is a web based data management system developed by Worksystems for the purpose of collecting, reporting and managing customer-level program information. The system is based on workforce development program services that generally require system rules for eligibility determination, service level data that includes detailed information relative to training and education activities, as well as performance outcome reporting which includes details of employment. The system has been in operation for over 15 years and has been upgraded and modified multiple times to its current configuration. The system currently operates over 100 separate funds, including several community college programs with about 1,000 users and supports a total current participant count in the database of over one million customer records.