

REGIONAL EDUCATION FOCUS

The Portland-Vancouver metro area offers a wide range of excellent educational opportunities to prepare students for the workforce. There are 25 public and private colleges and universities in the area offering professional and technical degrees. Washington State University Vancouver is the only tier one research university in the Portland region and offers four-year and graduate-level degrees. In addition, Clark College offers two-year degrees in numerous liberal arts and technical fields. In addition, both WSUV and Clark College have seen tremendous growth over the past five years. Combined, the community college system operates 18 centers and six main campuses, with an annual enrollment of more than 190,000 students. The local higher-education system is the center of workforce development activities in the region.



Photo courtesy of Washington State University Vancouver

HIRING AND TRAINING

The CREDC partners with the Southwest Washington Workforce Development Council (SWWDC) to assist with hiring and relocating employees to ensure a smooth transition to Clark County. The SWWDC is a non-profit organization that funds training to develop and upgrade skills of youth, jobseekers, and employed workers in the region.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

Program	Description	Partners
On-the-Job Training (OJT) Program	Occupational training is provided by the employer in exchange for reimbursement of up to 50 percent of the employee's wages. Up to \$5,000 per eligible employee is typically available. OJT participants receive additional support from WorkSource staff to ensure their success. Eligibility is based on employee qualifications and application and employer must agree to retain employee at least six months.	Washington WorkSource in partnership with SWWDC
Washington Job Skills Program (JSP)	A competitive grant reimbursing employers for new and existing workforce training. Minimum hourly wage must be \$11.00 per hour and employers must provide a 50 percent in-kind match.	Clark College and Impact Washington
Pro-Step (MISTI) Technical Workforce Training Grant	A competitive grant reimbursing IT and advanced manufacturers for existing workforce training. Maximum incentive is \$50,000 per employer.	SWWDC
JIAC Grant for Technical Assistance	JIAC funds provide technical assistance for manufacturers in the fields of metals and advanced materials in areas such as energy efficiency, lean manufacturing, workforce training, and market research, among others.	Impact Washington, SWWDC, OMEN

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