

**Northwest Workforce Council
For Immediate Release**

May 21, 2012

Media Contact: Gary Smith, (360) 676-3241, gsmith@nwisd.bellingham.wa.us

ISLAND YOUTH SAY YES-2-JOBS AT WORKSOURCE WHIDBEY

OAK HARBOR: Twenty Island County youth participated in an employment skills workshop called Yes-2-Jobs May 17 at WorkSource Whidbey. The afternoon workshop focused on equipping Island county youth with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to secure a job. The timing of the workshop coincided nicely for the upcoming WorkSource Job Fair on May 24. Facilitated by Alicia Underwood and Kim Zielinski-Monette of WorkSource Whidbey, the Yes-2-Jobs workshop was tailored to meet the needs of today's young jobseekers, most of whom face increased competition for employment in a sluggish economy. Underwood and Zielinski-Monette report, "Youth have a real challenge ahead of them as they make their way into the workforce. Many of the jobs traditionally held by young people are now filled by older, more experienced and skilled workers. It is increasingly difficult for young workers to gain that first foothold in the labor market. Yes-2-Jobs is about giving them the tools to improve their chances of employment."

The interactive workshop covered topics such as resume writing, how to complete an application, interview skills, and job search strategies. Resume writing instructions and tips were a popular topic in the group. According to one youth job seeker, the most valuable lesson of the day was, "resume criteria, as in how to fill one out, and how to be more descriptive about your skills."

The WorkSource Oak Harbor Job Fair will be held on Thursday, May 24 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Elk's Lodge (155 NE Ernst St. Oak Harbor, WA). The job fair is open to the public and will host over twenty local and area employers. WorkSource Whidbey provides no-cost monthly employment workshops open to individuals 16 years or older. For more information and to view the workshop calendar, visit www.WorksourceNorthwest.com or call 360-675-5966.

WorkSource is an equal-opportunity partnership of organizations that provide employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to people with disabilities.

###

*Photograph attached for inclusion. Photo/media release on file for all persons in image and made available upon request.