

**Northwest Workforce Council**  
**For Immediate Release**

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## **Northwest Workforce Council Achieves Highest Overall Performance in Washington State**

BELLINGHAM: Northwest Workforce Council has achieved the state's highest performance in the federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) workforce training and education programs it operates in four northwest Washington counties. This is an encore achievement as Northwest Workforce Council was also Washington's top performer last year. This level of service and quality requires ingenuity, consultative ability, and trustworthy expertise to deliver value-added services to northwest area businesses. The Council is engaged with business, education, labor and government leaders to oversee a regional workforce development system that provides funding and community-wide workforce development planning and coordination.

The eligibility-based WIA programs assist individuals in building occupational skills and job search strategies required in key regional industries. Programs serve adults and workers dislocated from their employment due to layoffs or business closures. WIA programs for youth, both in and out-of-school, help build job skills and experience as well as academic advancement and credentialing. The Council's programs are operated from WorkSource Northwest Career Centers in Bellingham, Mount Vernon, Oak Harbor and a local career center in Friday Harbor.

One of the most recognizable components of Northwest Workforce Council programs is the importance placed upon and financial support provided for skills training. The Council's strategic investments in workforce skill development help ensure the region's business and industry has a skilled workforce. Tuition assistance, work-based on-the-job training, and internship are complemented by customized services to businesses.

*"Northwest Workforce Council, its partners, and staff are to be commended for their continued performance excellence. The WIA employment and training programs make an important contribution to our region's economy as employers have a skilled and ready workforce when they need it. And they make a huge difference in individual lives as the value of work and self-worth in providing for a family build our community at the same time they enrich lives."*

*Terry Corrigan  
Vice President, Haskell Corporation  
Chair, Northwest Workforce Council*

The Council's performance outcomes are based upon a set of nine federal common measures. Results in achieving employment, retention of that employment, and wages earned are examined. Youth programs also measure literacy and numeracy gains and credentials attained. The council exceeded its performance target in each measure and exceeded the state's overall performance.

For more information on Northwest Workforce Council see [www.nwboard.org](http://www.nwboard.org).

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