

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Second Annual Construction Carnival bigger and better than ever**

With almost three hundred high school students from across Snohomish County already pre-registered, the Second Annual Construction Carnival, held at Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center on May 7, 2008 from 8am to 5pm, promises even more hands-on instruction and life-changing conversations.

Just like last year, teams of journeymen will be on-site to answer questions and offer high school students the opportunity to try their hands at a number of tasks while learning about careers in the construction trades. And just like last year the event will boast a carnival-like atmosphere, complete with the chance to ride a boom lift, frame a house, lay brick, eat a hamburger, and find a pathway to an exciting, high-demand career.

Hosted by Workforce Development Council Snohomish County's Construction Careers Partnership skill panel, participating exhibitors include such organizations as the Western Washington Sheet Metal Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, who will offer students the chance to build a sheet-metal tool tray they can take with them, and Master Builder's Career Connection, complete with Charlie's House, a "new hands-on building experience" that teaches students how to build a house from the ground up.

Energizing youth about construction careers is an important initiative in Snohomish County as workforce demands outnumber skilled workers and students often enter, and exit, college without a clear career path.

"Many students aren't aware of the vast array of apprenticeship opportunities available to them right out of high school," explains Sam Samano of Workforce Development Council Snohomish County. "For a lot of students, earning a high wage while getting skilled up in a competitive field is a very appealing option, one they don't often hear about from their high school counselors."

While it's aimed to attract students to the construction industry, the event is attractive to participating journeymen as well. "The Carnival is an exciting event for the trades," explains Eric Peterson with the Western Washington Sheet Metal JATC, "it gets us off the job site to meet tomorrow's workforce. We get to talk to teens about the work we love and get them pumped about signing up for an apprenticeship."

Other event sponsors include the Snohomish County Construction Careers Partnership, Western Washington Sheet Metal JATC, The Painters and Allied Trades, Sno-Isle TECH skills Center, Edmonds Community College Construction Training Program, WorkSource Snohomish County, Mater Builder's Career Connection, Edmonds Community College, Habitat for Humanity, Brightwater Treatment Facility, and Star Rentals.

Additional exhibitors include Northwest Washington Electrical Industry JATC, Northwest Laborers Employee Training, United Associations of Journeymen, Western Washington Masonry Trades, Pacific Northwest Ironworkers, Operating Engineers Regional Training, Boilermaker's Apprenticeship Program, Construction Industry Training Council, IEC of Washington, Washington State Department of Labor and Industry, Seattle Area Roofers Apprenticeship Program, Heat and Frost Allied Workers JATC, and more.

Pre-registered students include groups from the following high schools: Snohomish, Mariner, Cascade, Monroe, Marysville Pilchuck, Arlington, Weston, Lakewood, Granite Falls, and Everett as well as students from Everett's Center for Career Alternatives.

Exhibitor fees cover the cost of providing, in typical carnival fashion, a hamburger and an ice cream bar for each student. With the palpable excitement each journeyman brings about his/her industry, they'll be providing the students with a glimpse into a future in the building trades as well.

More information about the event can be found at [www.wdcsc.org](http://www.wdcsc.org).

### **Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC)**

WDCSC invests government and private funding to continuously increase the global competitiveness and prosperity of county workforce and businesses, fill current and emerging jobs, and provide full employment. Investments are made through effective business, labor, community-based, educational, and service provider organizations for the opportunity, economic well-being, and benefit of our entire community.

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