



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WDCSC joins Arlington partnership to promote pipeline of skilled workers

(Arlington, WA) March 22, 2013—Arlington-area aerospace and advanced manufacturing businesses, educators, elected officials and the media are invited to an open house on Friday, March 22, 2013 from 7:30-9:00 AM at Arlington High School, located at 18821 Crown Ridge Blvd, Arlington, WA 98223 to learn more about the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC) and its partnership with the City of Arlington and Arlington High School and tour the school's new metal shop. Speakers at the event include Barb Tolber, Mayor of Arlington; Dr. Kris McDuffy, Superintendent of Arlington School District; and Laura Hopkins from AJAC.

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County is pleased to cosponsor this open house with the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC), the City of Arlington, and Arlington High School. The event will highlight an innovative solution available to local aerospace and advanced manufacturing businesses to foster the next generation of employees through onsite apprenticeship programs.

“One of WDCSC’s main strategies is to foster collaboration between education and industry in order to build a highly-skilled workforce right here in Snohomish County,” explains Sue Ambler, President/CEO of Workforce Development Council Snohomish County. “The partnership between AJAC, Arlington High School, the City of Arlington, Economic Alliance Snohomish County, and Everett Community College is a prime example of this collaboration. Not only is Arlington High School preparing students for tomorrow’s jobs, but they’re helping local businesses get the skilled workers they need today.”

The purpose of this partnership is to establish a stackable education system that creates a bridge between K-12 schools and the workplace. This collaboration gives students the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in the trades, and gives employers the opportunity to build a highly skilled workforce.

“AJAC is excited to share with employers and public officials the steps AJAC has taken to bring apprenticeship training to the Arlington area and the opportunities employers now have to train their workforce. Our partnership with Arlington School District and the City of Arlington allows us to bridge the gap between K-12 education and employment in the Aerospace and Manufacturing trades, and gives us the opportunity to create the next generation of highly skilled workers,” said Laura Hopkins, AJAC Executive Director.

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About 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.

About the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC)

AJAC is a statewide, non-profit organization that creates apprenticeship training programs that combine supervised on-the-job training (OJT) with college-level classroom instruction. Upon completion, the apprentice earns their journey-level certification and college credit, which can apply towards two and four year degrees.