

## Washington Integrated Sector Employment (WISE) Workforce Development Project, July, 2016



### Background

The WISE Consortium is a statewide collaboration, led by three Washington State Centers of Excellence in Clean Energy, Construction and Advanced Manufacturing. Washington's Centers of Excellence are community colleges designated by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges as statewide leaders in specialized workforce education and training for industries that help the state's economy grow.

Through a \$10 million U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training TAACCCT Round 4 grant awarded October 1, 2014, WISE coordinates the efforts of the public workforce system to support sustainable development in our most critical industries. Troy Nutter, Training and Operations Manager, Puget Sound Energy and Chair of the WISE Executive Board, states, "The WISE grant's chief value is in its ability to develop a pipeline of skilled technical workers."

The WISE Consortia includes eight community and technical colleges that offer specialized Certificate and Degree programs focused on the targeted sectors creating a cluster focused on apprenticeship, related skill sets in trades occupations, comparable career pathways, and employer engagement. They include Centralia (CC) (lead), Everett (ECC), Renton (RTC), Bates (BTC), Shoreline (SCC), South Seattle (SSC), Green River (GRCC), and Walla Walla (WWCC) Community Colleges.

### WISE Highlights

**Student Navigation** – WISE funded programs provide specialized navigation services for students to assist with education and career goals teaching them how to plan, build, and navigate options to accomplish those goals. All WISE navigators have attended training and have developed in the past year a guidebook for WISE Navigation. The guidebook documents and reports on the "Best Practices" and value-added methods and techniques that WISE navigators currently are using to assist, mentor and report on the status of WISE participants. The purpose of this guidebook is to provide a framework and structure for consistent navigation services and data collection among WISE Partners.

### **Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy (PNCECE)**

Hydro Power Class – Supported by the PNCECE advisory board, WISE is developing the first and only Hydro Power Fundamentals course in Washington State. A curriculum development focus group was held in February, 2016 for hydro power subject matter experts from Tacoma Power, IBEW Local 77, Centralia City Light, Seattle City Light, Avista Corporation, Puget Sound Energy, and Lewis County PUD. The class will be delivered online as part of the Centralia College AAS Energy Technology-Power Operations degree to prepare community college students for entry-level positions at hydro facilities. It will also be offered to utilities such as Avista as related supplemental instruction for apprenticeship training programs. Advisory Board members are providing additional instructional material and industry guest lecturers. The class is scheduled to be offered Fall, 2016.

### **Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing**

National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) – The NCRC has been adopted by the WISE consortium as an assessment of employable skills in three key skill areas – mathematics, locating information and reading for comprehension. Since the inception of WISE, 23 new WorkKeys proctors have been trained at consortium colleges to conduct testing for the NCRC certificates resulting in 136 NCRCs earned by WISE participants as well as 67 that were conducted for Stockpot (a Division of Campbell Soup). Six new employers including Silicon Forest, CH20, Jim Graham Electric, Bates Technical College, and RKL Enterprises have officially "recognized" or "recommended" the NCRC as a direct result of outreach by the Center of Excellence.

### Construction Center of Excellence (CCE)

CCE is partnering in the development of Leadership in the Trades (LT) programs by supporting curriculum development focus groups comprised of Clean Energy, Construction and Advanced Manufacturing employers and labor including Spokane Home Builders Apprenticeship, Avista Utilities, Western States Operating Engineers, Seattle Building & Construction Trades and others. RTC began offering an LT Certificate program Winter 2016. Other LT programs slated for offering Fall, 2016 include WWCC Certificate and SSC Bachelor of Applied Science. These programs target journey workers who have completed an apprenticeship program of three years or more, incumbent workers, and current students in certificate and two-year degree programs. Graduates will be prepared to lead complex projects, work effectively with advanced technology, monitor safety and regulatory guidelines, exercise superior judgment in management disputes, negotiate agreements, contracts, and permits, and make expert assessments in the field.

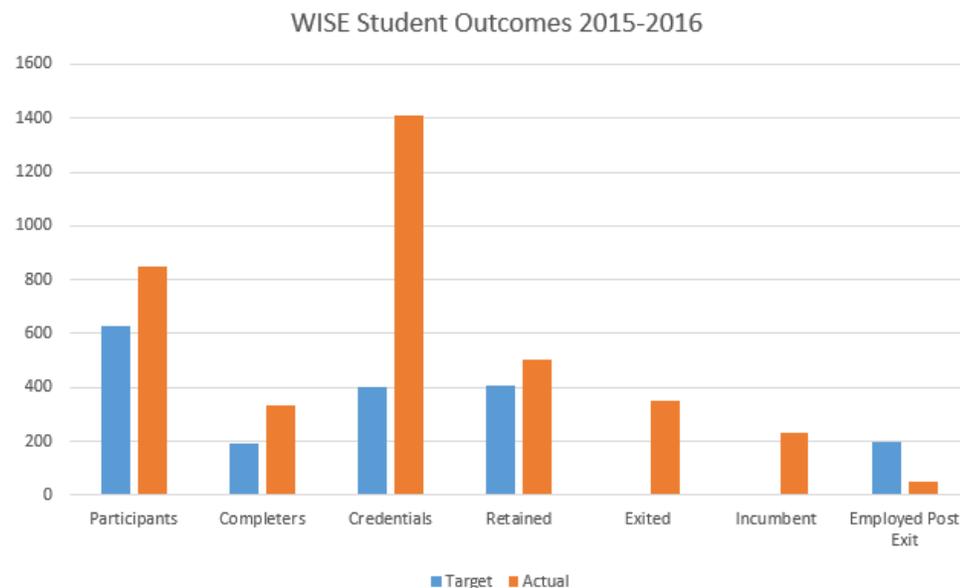
### Third Party Evaluation - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Intelligence (3SI)

The goal of the WISE evaluation is to develop a consistent and meaningful way to assess the effectiveness of the WISE program model. The evaluation will use a continuous quality improvement (CQI) process to build a framework for on-going, formative program evaluation and program improvement. The evaluation will consist of two key components: an implementation evaluation including measurement of the level or scope of implementation achieved; and an outcomes evaluation to measure achievement of the goals for the program including student employment, wages and job retention. A comparison cohort group for the Manufacturing Academy offered at both SSC and BTC will be used to explore a deeper analysis on the impact of WISE.

### WISE Executive Board – Employer, Labor and Workforce Engagement

Clean Energy	Adv Manufacturing	Construction	Others
Puget Sound Energy	PNW Aero Alliance	Absher Construction	WA State Labor Council
Tacoma Power	CIM Tech	City of Seattle	IBEW Local 77
Avista Utilities	751 Machinists	McKinstry	Spokane Workforce Dev
WSU Energy Program		NW Laborers Training	

### Participant Data - October 1, 2014 – March 31, 2016



This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration. This product was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor make no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. WISE is led by Centralia College and the Center of Excellence for Clean Energy in partnership with the Centers of Excellence for Aerospace & Advance Manufacturing and Construction. Centralia College is an equal opportunity employer/program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.