



# CAREER CONNECT NW

Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties

Hosted at



**Northwest Educational Service District 189**

*Together We Can*



Catalyst.



Connections.



Careers.

## Apprenticeship 101 program showcases opportunities and pathways for students

Over 50 educators from Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties gathered at the NWESD 189 on Feb. 13 to explore how they can best support their students interested in pursuing an apprenticeship after high school.



This program, co-sponsored by Career Connect NW, Washington State Labor and Industries, Washington State Labor Council, Career Connect Washington and Washington STEM, presented the foundations of how apprenticeship programs work, the different kinds of apprenticeship programs, how the number of spaces are determined, and ways that we can help students prepare to be as competitive as possible when they apply to an apprenticeship program.

Check out the video [here](#).



## About Us

The Career Connect NW Network connects industry, education, and community partners to collectively meet the career development needs of Northwest Washington's youth in an equitable and accessible way.

Our Network creates a coordinated effort with planning partners and local stakeholder organizations in Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom communities to serve as a catalyst for initiatives, leveraging resources and programs and building community.

The Career Connect NW Network has three goals:

- Catalyze Regional Stakeholder Partnerships, Collaborations, and Strategies
- Increase Equity and Access to High Wage/High Demand Career Opportunities
- Support Coherent Career Pathways and Workforce Readiness

We are dedicated to equity through attention to data and focus on those historically underrepresented in STEM fields including students of color, women, students living in rural areas, and students living in poverty.

We foster and promote innovation in approaching how to connect young people to careers, exploring new ways to advance opportunities for students and make them accessible and relevant in their world.



is proud to present:

## ECHO<sup>SM</sup> TOUR

Exploring Careers & Healthcare Opportunities

### ECHO Tour presents a unique opportunity for industry and education to build future workforce

More than 600 students from 24 high schools in Snohomish County are expected to attend the Exploring Careers & Healthcare Opportunities (ECHO) Tour on March 18-20 at Everett Community College.

"The ECHO Tour is a dynamic career exploration program designed to provide interactive, multidisciplinary experiences to high school students (sophomores – seniors) in Snohomish County," said Donovan Tate, Career Connected Learning Specialist, Career Connect NW. "Students will experience a variety of careers through engaging hands-on activities with local medical professionals."

## Contact Us

**Jenny Veltri**  
**Career Connect NW Network**  
**Regional Lead**  
[jveltri@nwesd.org](mailto:jveltri@nwesd.org)

Counselors and teachers throughout Northwest Washington can also participate and earn 7 STEM Clock hours by attending one hour of virtual training ahead of time plus one day in person at Everett Community College on March 18, 19, or 20. This course will provide educators with insight into how to better support students interested in pursuing a career in healthcare.

Register for the one-day training here: [March 18](#), [March 19](#), or [March 20](#).

### Career Connected events and workshops held in the region's schools

The new school year brought Career Connect NW career-related workshop requests from high schools across the Northwest Educational Service District region.



Here are some of the highlights:

#### Find Your Match! – Anacortes High School (Feb. 14)

Ninth-graders at Anacortes High School explored STEM careers to see if they could find their career match. Six different employers created stations with 12-minute activities to help students learn about career options. Students moved from station to station in groups to explore high-wage, high-demand career paths. Nearly 180 students participated and explored...

- Advanced Manufacturing: PACCAR Training Center brought in huge posters of semi-trucks, testing equipment students could try, and several employees with different STEM roles at the company.
- IT Careers: Charell Williams from the NWESD 189 IT Department focused on Arduino Robotics & Drone technology.
- Maritime Careers: La Conner Maritime Service brought visuals of boats and explained how they are built and serviced.
- Trades Careers: Electricians, Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee talked about apprenticeship opportunities in the trades.
- Environmental Science: City of Anacortes Public Works featured environmental science jobs focusing on stormwater management and covered environmental restoration, enforcement, and research careers.
- Healthcare Careers: PeaceHealth showed students MRI and Ultrasound images for careers in Diagnostic Imaging.

#### Adulting 101 - Anacortes High School (Feb. 14)

The Adulting 101 Seminar brought local business leaders together to address personal banking, credit scores, tax basics and insurance. Nearly 170 students participated in the Adulting 101 seminar with 77.8% indicating that the event helped them think more about life after high school and 78.3% of students indicating that the Adulting 101 Seminar taught them about real life skills.

Thanks to:

- Wendy Drake, Anacortes Branch Manager at Peoples Bank, and TJ Fantini, Anacortes Assistant Branch Manager at Peoples Bank, presented the do's and don'ts of personal banking and credit scores.
- Elliott Johnson, President of Haven Financial Partners presented on the basics of taxes and how they are used.
- Heather Ladd, Insurance Agent with State Farm Insurance presented on insurance requirements in Washington and additional considerations that students should be aware of when they start making decisions about their coverage.

#### Love Your Resume Workshop - Scriber Lake High School (Feb. 16)

Forty-one students at Scriber Lake High School participated in the Learn to Love Your Resume workshop. Students must create a resume during their senior year to fulfill their High School and Beyond requirements, so the goal of the workshop was to create a resume using the template provided and submit it by the end of the workshop. They also learned the importance of being truthful in their resumes and how to get past Applicant Tracking Systems (resume-screening robots) by using keywords in job postings.

#### Maritime Careers – Coupeville Feb. 21)

Capt. Brian Vick showed the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Island County's DINO Squad how to calculate nautical miles per hour while he shared career insights on being a Captain.

The DINO Squad (Dabble in New Opportunities) group meets at Coupeville High School's administration building, and Capt. Vick works on the Schooner Suva out of the Coupeville Wharf during the spring and summer months.

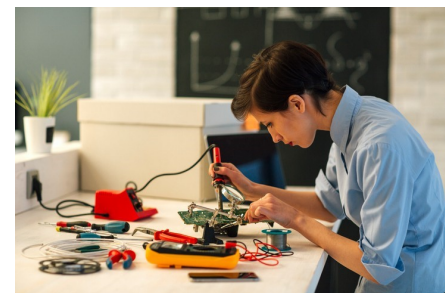
**Sinead Fitzpatrick Plagge**  
Career Connect NW Network  
Regional Lead  
[splagge@nwesd.org](mailto:splagge@nwesd.org)

**Alyssa Jackson**  
Career Connect NW Network  
Regional Lead, Snohomish STEM  
Director  
[alyssaj@snohomishstem.org](mailto:alyssaj@snohomishstem.org)

**Career Connected Learning  
Specialists**  
Mary Powers  
[mpowers@nwesd.org](mailto:mpowers@nwesd.org)

Donovan Tate  
[dtate@nwesd.org](mailto:dtate@nwesd.org)

Megan Benzing  
[meganb@snohomishstem.org](mailto:meganb@snohomishstem.org)





Participants received career path posters provided by the Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing and Technology, who is a Career Connect Washington Maritime Sector Intermediary, as well as a list of local education options for those interested in pursuing this career.

### **Health Care Careers – Cap Sante High School (Feb. 21)**

Cap Sante High School students in grades 9-12 learned about healthcare careers from Skagit Regional Health. The speakers covered many career path options in healthcare, including entry-level careers such as Certified Nursing Assistant all the way to Physician Assistant. The highlight was their Medical Assistant On-the-Job Training Program where, if hired at Skagit Regional Health as a Medical-Assistant-in-Training, employees earn a wage during the 9-week training program while they earn their Medical Assistant credentials. They stressed the importance of earning a high school diploma or equivalent in order to apply to the program, which is a full-time commitment to work 40 hours per week at Skagit Regional Health while completing the training.



### **STEM Like ME!® - Marysville Getchell High School (Feb. 22)**

Nearly 120 students in grades 9-12 in chemistry, biology, and math classes participated in a career exploration event to learn more about high-wage, high-demand careers through the STEM Like ME!® career-connected learning program.



Employees from Snohomish County Public Works, Snohomish County Public Utility District, NW Ambulance, and Zap Energy engaged students in activities to help them understand what each career path entails. Snohomish STEM, Career Connect NW Region, and Economic Alliance Snohomish County collaborated to plan the event.

To learn more about scheduling a career-related workshop or to see the upcoming schedule of events, click [here](#).



To read more about "Students learn everything from resumes to career paths at workshops," click [here](#).

### **Learning with Leaders brings 165 students and teachers to Skagit Valley College**

Connecting students to in-demand, high wage career pathways through hands-on exploration that align with their unique talents, gifts, and strengths – that’s the goal of Learning with Leaders!



On February 1, FuturesNW held its winter Learning With Leaders event at Skagit Valley College, hosting 165 students, teachers, and high school representatives from 15 different schools and programs across Whatcom and Skagit Counties. Career Connect NW was proud to support and participate in this event!



Students learned from industry professionals about careers through hands-on activities. Sessions: Automotive, Advanced Manufacturing, Emergency Medical Technician, Fire Science, Nursing, Medical Assisting, Human Services, Computer Science, & Dental Therapy. Learn more about the event [here](#).

“Learning with Leaders isn’t a mere event; it’s the transformative gateway where student dreams materialize into tangible moments,” said Diana Peregrina, Outreach Director at Skagit Valley College. “Through hands-on experiences, aspirations take flight, portraying higher education as an attainable reality, not a distant wish.”

The Spring Learning with Leaders is set for May 21 at Bellingham Technical College. Learn more [here](#).



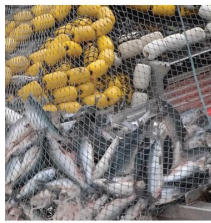
### **Summer 2024 K-12 Maritime Externship: Spend a week working in the local maritime industry**

Led by the NW Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology, serving as the Career Connect Washington Maritime Sector Lead, the Statewide K12 Externship Project is developed in partnership with Capital Region ESD 113 and the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC).

The K12 Externship, a summer 2024 professional development opportunity for K12 CTE, comprehensive high school and Skill Center faculty, will work with a maritime industry partner for a 1-week paid externship experience. You also earn 25 STEM Clock Hours.

Faculty will work in a maritime environment in your region to learn about the maritime industry, and career pathway opportunities that can be shared in classrooms.

The application period is now open and closes March 22. More information can be found [here](#).



### High School & Beyond Plan: Connecting students to career pathways

This professional community of practice offers a valuable opportunity for educators to delve deeper into specific subjects relating to college and career readiness, as well as the High School and Beyond Plan. Each quarter, we will concentrate on a particular topic pertaining to the High School and Beyond Plan, such as financial aid, career pathways, and connecting students to pathways.



Our virtual session from 1-2:30 p.m. on March 12 will focus on connecting students to career pathways. Examples of career exploration, preparation, and launch will be explored for students in elementary through high school. Join us to learn more about ready-made programming in the region as well as how to create new career-related opportunities for students in your district. Register [here](#).

Our in-person session in May will focus on exploring components of the High School and Beyond Plan and any new legislation passed this session, as well as graduation pathways, requirements, and the career connected learning continuum. Through collaboration between educators and community organization staff, equitable practices, strategies, and effective approaches to support students in creating their High School and Beyond Plans will be explored.

The May 23 event is set for 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at NWESD 189. Lunch will be provided. Register [here](#).



### Do you know a STEM Rising Star?

We are looking for young thinkers, scientists, engineers, inventors,



entrepreneurs, and leaders who have inspired others with their STEM experiences, in and outside the classroom. Washington STEM Rising Star Awards highlight those who will become the next generation of STEM leaders.

Washington STEM Rising Stars are high school freshmen, sophomores, or juniors who identify as young women or transgender/nonbinary and who explore STEM in ways that will support their education, career, personal development, and the development and needs of others. This program is designed to uplift historically underrepresented genders. Although it was originally conceived of as an opportunity for young women, we also encourage applications from transgender/nonbinary students.

Nominate a student today! One awardee from the NW Washington region will receive a \$500 stipend, various STEM-related goodies, and a trip for the awardee and a parent/guardian to an in-person event at the Microsoft Bellevue campus. Rising Stars will be featured on the Washington STEM website and in social media campaigns. They will also have networking, personal development, and mentorship opportunities with STEM professionals.

Nominations must be submitted by Friday, March 29. For details and to nominate a STEM Rising Star, click [here](#).



### CCNW attends the Accelerate Ed Community Convening

Members of the Career Connect NW team recently participated in the Accelerate Ed Community Convening, hosted by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Feb. 5-9 in Austin, Texas. This event gathered educators, policymakers, and advocates to explore innovative methods for scaling accelerated pathway programs in education. Discussions centered on strategies for expanding such programs effectively, emphasizing equity and student success. Through interactive sessions and workshops, participants gained insights into crucial components for successful scaling.



A key takeaway from the convening was the necessity of developing equity-driven programs. This entails designing pathways with intentionally sequenced coursework, integrating work-based learning opportunities, and offering targeted advising and student supports. By prioritizing equity in program design, institutions can ensure equal access to opportunities for all students. This core tenant is being applied within the CTE Dual Credit Proviso work CCNW is engaged in along with the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Everett Community College, Skagit Valley College, Bellingham Technical College, and Whatcom Community College.



Sinead Plagge and Jenny Veltri, CCNW co-directors, attended the event along with additional representatives from the CTE Dual Credit proviso workgroup including Bill Beldon, Policy Associate of Workforce Education for the SBCTC; Tim McClain, Dual Credit Program Supervisor at OSPI; and Cathy Leaker, Vice President of Instruction and Herman Calsadillas, Dean of AMTEC and Career Connected Learning at Everett Community College.



(L-R) Herman Calsadillas, Dean of AMTEC and Career Connected Learning at Everett Community College; Jenny Veltri, CCNW Co-Director; Sinead Plagge, CCNW Co-Director, Tim McClain, Dual Credit Program Supervisor at OSPI; Cathy Leaker, Vice President of Instruction at Everett



### **Dive into the drivers of equitable dual credit access**

Does your district have an academic acceleration policy, but struggles with identifying other ways to eliminate disparities and encourage enrollment in dual credit courses? Have you implemented innovative strategies in your school or district and want to spread the word? These resources and events are perfect for you!

Join Stand for Children Washington, and fellow education leaders from around the state, for a series of virtual convenings to dive into the six drivers of equitable dual credit access.

Learn more [here](#).



### **Eight industry sector partnership receive nearly \$17 million to help Washington residents secure good jobs**

Eight sectoral partnerships were awarded funds totaling nearly \$17 million to train and place nearly 3,000 Washingtonians into good jobs with a family-sustaining wage in five key industries: Construction; Healthcare; Advanced Manufacturing & Aerospace; Clean Technology & Energy; and Information Technology & Cybersecurity.

That was the great news from the Employment Security Department, and Career Connect Washington (CCW), who recently announced the winners of the Washington Jobs Initiative Sectoral Partnerships.

The Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) and CCW received \$23 million in support from the U.S Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration's Good Jobs Challenge grant to create the Washington Jobs Initiative (WJI). WJI is helping Washington residents connect to good jobs through registered apprenticeships and other technical training programs. The initiative leverages CCW's existing system to coordinate efforts across the state and ensure a focus on equity and diversity.

Learn more [here](#).

### **Take the High School and Beyond Survey by Friday, March 8**

This is the last week to take the OSPI Statewide HSBP Platform Survey, which closes Friday, March 8. This survey was created to collect feedback on what Washington students, families, K-12 staff, and educational partners want included in the new platform.

Statewide feedback from students, families, educators, and community partners is vital to inform OSPI of the highest needs and interests of all stakeholders and to support selection of the best possible platform and partner. Statewide, 1,697 stakeholders have completed the survey – 201 from our region! We would love to see many more voices represented before the survey closes, especially from students.

Please take the survey and consider sharing the links below with students, educators, families, and community partners!



To take the survey in English, [click here](#).



To take the survey in Spanish, [click here](#).

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### Take the survey to update the Regional Workforce Development Strategy

The [Northwest Workforce Council](#), serving Island, San Juan, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties, is updating its Regional Strategy and they want to hear your input! You are invited to take their survey(s) by March 31.



**Workforce System Partner Survey**- includes Associate Economic Development Organizations, K-12, Early Education, Higher Education, CTE, Apprenticeships, business associate organizations, local labor, elected officials, tribal partners, municipalities, or internal system partners

### **Organizations that Serve Job Seekers and Workers Survey**

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### Upcoming professional development events

#### Looking for online clock hours?

Use our QR code to easily search for upcoming STEM clock hour opportunities. The classes are online via Canvas, asynchronous (so you can take them when and where you want, at your own pace), and between 1 and 10 hours long.



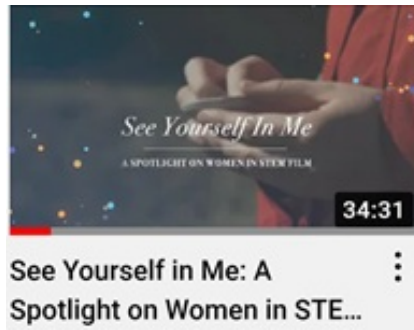
For more information contact: Polly Myers, Online Learning Coordinator, [pmyers@nwesd.org](mailto:pmyers@nwesd.org), 360-299-4031.

Check out all the Professional Learning events here:

<https://www.nwesd.org/calendar/>

Check out all of events that offer clock hours here:

<https://www.pdenroller.org/catalog>



To learn more, connect and get involved: [www.NWWashingtonSTEM.org](http://www.NWWashingtonSTEM.org)

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Career Connect NW Network | c/o Northwest Educational Service District 189, 1601 R Avenue,  
Anacortes, WA 98221

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