

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

A thriving business community requires a robust and well-equipped workforce. Prior to COVID-19 there were employment opportunities going unfilled in the Wenatchee Valley because job seekers lack the skills and qualifications necessary for employment. Currently, the Valley is facing unprecedented unemployment numbers and some jobs will not come back. We need a way to retool our community to take jobs in industry sectors that are evolving. Large and small employers struggle to find qualified workers that possess the needed work ethic

and soft skills. The need to provide learning opportunities which instills this work ethic and soft skills is growing and is essential for students, young adults and adult workers. The soft skills needed include communication and interpersonal skills, emotional intelligence, leadership, teamwork, conflict resolution, time and stress management, business etiquette, customer service, and negotiation skills. The development of these skills is critical to having a strong, vibrant workforce.

Guiding Principles

- » The Chamber supports legislation and programs that provide career awareness, exploration, and experiences for students through partnerships with business, schools and community. As such, the Chamber will take an active role in championing discussion regarding resources and legislation supportive of workforce development.
- » The Chamber supports programs, processes, activities and facilities that promote a strong local workforce, which together with business and community, prepares young adults and adult workers for a productive role in the world.
- » The Chamber supports career training for a constantly evolving workforce, with needs driven by the business community. Responsiveness includes strong support for community involvement and resources for technical training.
- » The Chamber supports creative solutions to upskilling workers, to include mentorship, professional development, apprenticeships and internships.