



Spokane Area WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Highlights of the Past Year

January 2008: Allied Health Career Academy proposal approved by the Governor and funded at \$100,000 for an 18-month pilot program that provides access to health care careers for students at Havermale High School with opportunities to earn college credit, an NAC credential, and for paid work experiences.

February – March 2008: SAWDC partners with stakeholders from Community Colleges of Spokane, Avista, Eastern Washington University, Gonzaga University, Spokane Public Schools, and Greater Spokane Incorporated to craft \$2,000,000 grant proposal designed to increase regional education capacity in the energy industry.

March 2008: The Next Generation Zone, a youth career center, housed at WorkSource Spokane and operated in partnership with the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council, was named recipient of a Chase youth award in recognition of its asset building efforts for Spokane County youth. The Next Generation Zone offers education, employment and skills training for 16-21 year olds through career guidance, employment training, assistance with basic skills upgrade, resume preparation and other resources to help young adults successfully transition from school to work.

May 2008: The International Association of Workforce Professionals selected the Spokane WorkSource center as the *Best One-Stop Career Service Center in the Nation* – out of more than 1,800 centers nationwide and in 14 participating foreign countries. Governor Gregoire visited the Center to congratulate staff and board members on their achievement and stated that the Spokane model is a best practice that she would like to see adopted by other centers around the state. Senator Patty Murray offered her congratulations and thanked the Spokane team and their partners for “taking excellence to a new level.” The team approach to customer service has led to innovative strategies that focus on helping reach the economic development goals of our community by connecting businesses to workers with the skills that they need.

June 2008: The SAWDC in partnership with Washington State Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development, sponsored a *Regional Cluster Academy* held at the Davenport Hotel. Over 50 representatives from economic development, labor, secondary and post secondary education, government, workforce development, and community-based organizations were present and heard from national sector strategists, state leaders, and local stakeholders. Examples of successful collaborative efforts were shared and partners explored ways in which better alignment of programs and resources may result in improved outcomes for our community.

June 2008: Annual WIA allocations were received from the USDOL and the state and staff negotiated with service providers to develop a service strategy that will provide workforce services to our community in Program Year 2008 (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009). The Spokane Area Workforce Development Council, Spokane City Council and Board of County Commissioners approved Workforce Investment Act Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Worker budgets and awards totaling over \$3.5M.

Note: This year the SAWDC received over \$200,000 less than the prior year due to a rescission of funds by the federal government and a decrease in the level of federal formula funds allocated to this area.

August – September 2008: A new pre-apprenticeship website was developed and launched, paid for through a partnership between Spokane Public Schools, Spokane Area Technical-Professional Consortium (SAPTAC), and the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council. The website allows all youth attending school in SAPTAC’s 12 districts to learn more about and register to participate in the pre-apprenticeship program. The website also contains detailed career information about local construction industry trades, including salary, hiring and education information.

September 2008: Governor's 2008 Economic and Workforce Development Conference - *Economic-Workforce Development Partnerships* – was held in Lynnwood. Representing Spokane on the topic, Spokane Area Workforce Development Council Director Mark Mattke and Greater Spokane Incorporated CEO Rich Hadley presented on the level of partnership occurring throughout Spokane. Spokane was also honored with the following four best practices in workforce development nominations: Allied Health Career Academy, Spokane Area Workforce Development Council; Spokane Workforce Consortium, WorkSource Spokane (partnership funded through the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council); Construction Cruise 2008, Washington State Building and Construction Trades; and Teaching the Teachers Workshops, Greater Spokane Incorporated.

September – October 2008: SAWDC partnered with stakeholders from Spokane Community College, the Institute for Extended Learning, North Idaho College, Spokane Public Schools, the Spokane Skills Center, Kootenai County School Districts 271, 272, and 273, and Greater Spokane Incorporated to create a \$2,000,000 grant proposal designed to increase regional education capacity in the manufacturing industry.

October 2008: Staff from the SAWDC and WorkSource Spokane attend People Inspiring Transformation (PIT) Crew forum in Atlanta and launch participation in national mentor-learner project. The PIT Crew effort brings together workforce investment boards and One-Stop Career Center systems from around the country to participate as peer mentors and learners in crucial transformation areas. The project uses a peer-to-peer learning and coaching approach to build the capacity of state and local workforce investment boards and their One-Stop systems. Through this learning structure, workforce practitioners learn from one another and replicate effective change management and leadership development strategies and models across the system.

October 2008: The Spokane Area Workforce Development Council hosted the Eastern Washington Regional Innovation Planning Session. Attendees included a broad range of stakeholders from business, workforce development, economic development, education, and community-based organizations from the greater six county region of eastern Washington. The guest speaker, Michael Gilroy, U.S. Department of Labor, discussed Workforce Innovations in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) transformational strategies utilized by USDOL and the opportunities for our region to perform comprehensive planning under the auspices of a Regional Innovation Grant.

November 2008: SAWDC brought national workforce consultant Greg Newton to Spokane to meet with workforce system partners and discuss models for effective integration of services and ways in which we can work together to continue the transformation of our system to better meet our customers' needs.

November – December 2008: SAWDC partnered with Greater Spokane Incorporated, Spokane Community College, Spokane Public Schools, Providence Health and Services WA/MT, Inland Northwest Health Services, and WSU to develop a project proposal designed to leverage the combined expertise and investment of the workforce development, economic development, education, and business community to help fill the pipeline of skilled workers in the health care cluster. If funded, this project will increase regional awareness among students and adults of health care careers and improve our ability to connect individuals to programs and resources that lead to post secondary education and success in the workplace. Incumbent workers will gain improved knowledge of career pathways within this industry and have access to training that fits with their schedules and helps them climb the career ladder to higher pay and lifelong opportunities.