

IN THE LOOP

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FOR BOARD MEMBERS & COMMISSIONERS

IN THE LOOP | Issue 15, April 2025

Hello {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

April showers bring ... action items! Following our productive March retreat, it's clear we're eager to translate our discussions into tangible actions, so you'll find some suggestions below. I am grateful to each of you for your willingness and effort to impact lives throughout our region.

Happy Spring,



Lisa Romine, CEO

Board Member Spotlight



"The sheer amount of resources offered by SkillSource and our partners is inspiring, not only for youth, but for adult workers. Workforce development is directly tied to economic development. The solutions SkillSource provides through OJT, incumbent worker training, internships, and layoff services are extremely beneficial."

Kyle Niehenke

Adams County Development Council

Board Member Spotlight

Kyle Niehenke got his start in the world of work hauling multiple 42 lb. water jugs at Lindsay Water, Pool and Spa in Ephrata. "At the time I was about 5'3" and maybe 110 pounds. It was a good intro for me to the working world, and reminded me that I did want to go to college." Kyle has been busy cultivating a stronger business environment in Adams County and joined the SkillSource board in the fall of 2022. Kyle's tenacity, enthusiasm, and commitment to our region is palpable, and we are so grateful to have his service on our board!



It was such a pleasure to spend time together in Chelan last month for the bi-annual board retreat. Thank you for taking the time and effort, and for bringing your energy and insight. It was inspiring to be among you all, planting those important seeds of ideas for the future of our workforce in NCW.

Read the Retreat Re-cap: <https://www.skillsource.org/skillsource-board-retreat-planting-seeds-for-a-stronger-workforce/>

See More Photos (password: retreat2025):
<https://www.skillsource.org/photos/2025-board-retreat-at-campbells-resort/>

Suggested Action Items

In addition to this monthly newsletter, the SkillSource team will reach out to you for other opportunities to take action. Thank you to each of you who were able to respond to the calls to action in March to email state legislators!

ACTION: Consider attending a Workforce Collaboration Summit to learn more about partnerships and offerings throughout our local workforce systems.

- May 9: Chelan-Douglas at Wenatchee Valley College - [Register Here](#)

- May 13: Okanogan at Okanogan Fairgrounds - [Register Here](#)
- August 1: Grant-Adams at Big Bend Community College - *registration not yet open*

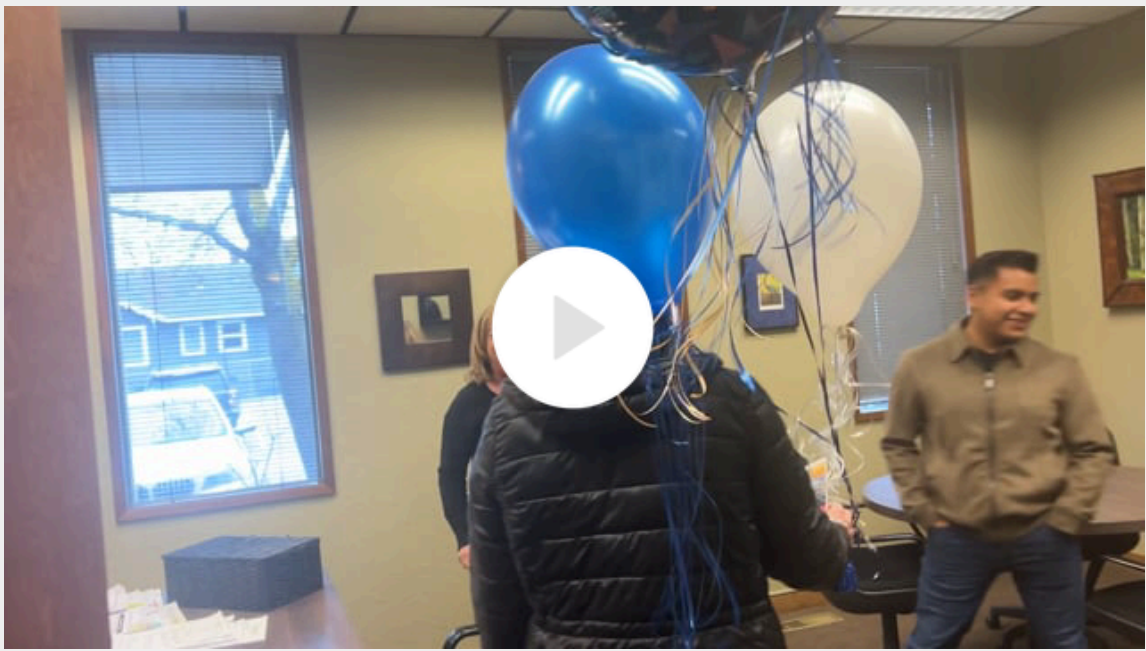
ACTION: Share an upcoming SkillSource event or opportunity for your sub-area. Click links for details:

- **April 16:** [Empresarios en Acción](#) - located at the Wenatchee Valley Chamber - this is a series of bilingual training courses designed to assist, support and enhance the growth of local businesses. This one is focused on bookkeeping.
- **April 23:** [Business Is Brewing](#) - location will be at Desert Rose Cafe in Othello - this is a partnership series with SkillSource and the Othello Chamber for area business owners

ACTION: Choose a favorite photo from our recent board retreat in Chelan. Share it in a social media post. You can modify this provided caption, or create your own: *"This was a [fun, inspiring, etc] moment from a recent board retreat in Chelan. I serve on the SkillSource Regional Workforce Board because [short sentence about how you were helped as a customer, or how others have been helped, or a statement about impact]. I'm grateful for the time together at the retreat and more inspired than ever to help strengthen our workforce here in North Central Washington."* **If you would like assistance, please [email Kelli](#).**

Newsworthy

In case you missed it, [SkillSource was recognized as the Non-Profit of the Year](#) by the Wenatchee Valley Chamber of Commerce. It's an incredible honor, and a true testament to the hard work of our staff and partners, and the positive impact on our communities. Thank you to Julie Helligso, for sharing her SkillSource story in the video below created by Voortex Productions!



Leg Work

SkillSource executive team members had multiple sessions with legislators in March, including a virtual meeting with Congressman Dan Newhouse, and another with Congresswoman Kim Schrier, as well as an in-person meeting again with Congressman Newhouse in Washington D.C.

We are grateful to each of them for their advocacy, and we will keep you in the loop of relevant updates, as well as opportunities to engage. Thank you to board members Tad Hildebrand and Pablo Villareal for joining us on the journey to D.C.



Incumbent Worker Training

A team of 12 irrigation technicians in Douglas County recently received their forklift certification through incumbent worker training. As you engage with businesses in your area, consider: *Could their business benefit from new skills for current workers?* You can share with them the story below, and have them contact us for more information. [READ THE STORY](#)



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