

# IN THE LOOP

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FOR BOARD MEMBERS &amp; COMMISSIONERS

## IN THE LOOP | Issue 16, May 2025

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Hello {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

As spring unfolds, we're seeing partnerships strengthen and policy conversations gain traction. Workforce development takes coordination and persistence, and your support continues to make a difference. We're tracking key legislative efforts and will share updates as they develop. In the meantime, you'll find a few simple ways to stay engaged below.

Thank you,



Lisa Romine, CEO

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## Board Member Spotlight



"SkillSource is a key partner in workforce development. Together we create economic opportunities, share knowledge, and participate with community partners to effectively transform lives one student and one family at a time. The success stories resulting from the collaboration and work of this team are amazing and rewarding."

### **Irasema Ortiz-Elizalde**

Department of Social and Health Services

## **Board Member Spotlight**

Irasema Ortiz-Elizalde has served on the SkillSource Regional Workforce Board for 11 years. "I enjoy being part of a team that oversees programs and ensures they are meeting everyone's needs in the rural communities that we serve. As a liaison and advocate for DSHS, I have had the opportunity to work with WIOA, EcSA, BFET and TANF and know how they fit into workforce development."

Fun fact: Irasema's first job was at Rexall Drug Store when she was 16 years old. From stocking, working in the jewelry department, to making milkshakes, Irasema did it all, and she's been saying "yes" to serving others ever since. We're grateful for Irasema's years of leadership, advocacy, and insight on the board. Thank you for your dedication to SkillSource and the rural communities we serve.

## **Meeting Reminders**

Please mark your calendar to attend the next committee meeting in your area. Lunch will be provided.

**Okanogan Committee – June 9, 12 pm**  
**Grant/Adams Committee - June 10, 12 pm**

## Opportunities to Engage

Thank you to each of you who were able to respond to the calls to action in April to help advocate for continued funding of workforce programs. Every letter, email and conversation makes a difference!

**OPPORTUNITY:** 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 - [Register Here](#)

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

- **May 12 - September 22: [Moses Lake Entrepreneurial Workshop Series](#)** - This free Entrepreneurial Workshop Series is designed to take new business leaders through all the aspects of starting, running, and growing a successful business in and around **Moses Lake**. Hosted by the Moses Lake Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with SkillSource, the Small Business Development Center of Washington, and in thanks to funding through the WA State Department of Commerce Community Reinvestment Project.
- **May 13 - 28: Leading in a Lean Environment Workshop Series** - These 4-hour modules focus on team-building skills that are imperative to leading people in a manufacturing environment. This workshop series will be held in **Okanogan County**. [Contact Mayra for details.](#)

## Celebrating Success

Save the date to attend one of our Learning Center graduation ceremonies to celebrate SkillSource graduates! *You do not need to RSVP to attend a graduation.*

GRANT-ADAMS - June 6, 7:00 pm, Othello High School

OKANOGAN - June 9, 6:00 pm, Dawson Gym Okanogan High School

CHELAN-DOUGLAS - June 12, 7:00 pm, Wenatchee First Assembly of God



## Employers Wanted

Host a youth work experience or worksite tour! Our Chelan-Douglas team is looking for more employers to host opportunities for the summer Pre-ETS program. Contact [Laura Cale](#), (509) 293- 4837.

Below: A tour from last summer at Sabey Data Center in East Wenatchee which provided students and staff an inside peek to data center career opportunities.





## Internships & Apprenticeships

In April we shared several stories about local internships, as well as a feature on a new registered barber apprenticeship offered through The Man Shops.

How you can help:

- Read, comment on, and share [the Internship Awareness story](#) to LinkedIn.
- Read, comment on, and share [The Man Shop's Apprenticeship story](#) to LinkedIn.
- Reach out if your business or organization is interested in hosting an internship!



## Board Member Sightings

It is always wonderful to run into our Board Members out in the community! Thank you to Brant Mayo, Sara Thompson-Tweedy, and Faimous Harrison for their engagement in the recent [Data Center Career Summit](#) at Big Bend Community College and Wenatchee Valley College.



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## Contact Us

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