

# IN THE LOOP

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
FOR BOARD MEMBERS & COMMISSIONERS

## IN THE LOOP | Issue 24, January 2026

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Hello {{ contact.FIRSTNAME }},

Happy New Year! We're celebrating two full years of sharing this newsletter with you. Your survey feedback let us know that you value this monthly update. We look forward to ongoing efforts to make it useful, relevant, and engaging.

This issue includes news about leadership changes, work in progress, and what's up ahead in the coming weeks. Thank you for staying connected and involved.

In gratitude,



Lisa Romine, CEO

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## Board Chair

# Board Chair Transition

Welcome, **Tad Hildebrand**, incoming **Board Chair**. Thank you to Tad for stepping into this role to help guide the board's work in the years ahead.

Thank you to **Zach Williams**, outgoing **Board Chair**, for his leadership, care, and commitment during his term.

We still need a **Vice-Chair** from business, as well as a **Treasurer** from any industry. Interested? [Please contact Lisa](#). She will be contacting some of you in the coming weeks.

## Board Communications Survey

IMPORTANT: We're looking for full participation [in this short survey](#). Thank you to everyone who has responded. If you have not yet chimed in, please complete the survey no later than 1/15. Results of the survey may have an impact on future board meeting times.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

# COMMON THREAD

Stories and perspectives  
that connect our regional  
workforce system.



**Zach Williams**  
Stemilt Growers

Friday January 16, 2026

11 - 11:45 AM



**Sara Thompson Tweedy**  
Big Bend Community College

[Zoom Link → skillsource.org/events](https://skillsource.org/events)

## Common Thread: January Conversation

Friday, January 16, 2026 | 11:00–11:45 AM

Featuring **Zach Williams** and **Sara Thompson Tweedy**

Common Thread is a new conversation series designed to share stories and perspectives that connect our workforce system. **Board members are encouraged to attend and are welcome to extend the invitation to colleagues and partners.** Because this is our pilot conversation, outreach will be soft and intentional — shared with staff, associates, and personal invitations — while remaining publicly accessible.

The Zoom link is available on the SkillSource calendar:

[skillsource.org/events](https://skillsource.org/events)

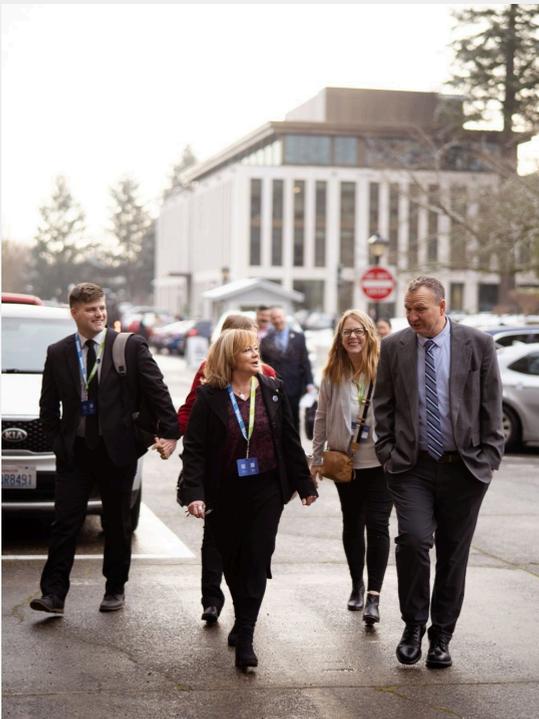


## WWA Leadership

This month Lisa Romine steps into the seat as Board Chair for the Washington Workforce Association (WWA), with Miriam Halliday from Workforce Southwest as vice-chair.

This role places SkillSource at the center of statewide workforce conversations and strengthens our region's voice in policy, funding, and strategy discussions that affect all of us. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

## Upcoming Events & Reminders



## WWA Hill Climb

*January 27, 2026*

The annual Washington Workforce Association Hill Climb is this month. SkillSource executive staff members along with participant, [Roger Skjelstad](#), will travel to Olympia to connect with legislators and share the impact of workforce investment efforts. [You can read WWA's 2026 Legislative Priorities here.](#)

[Read Priorities](#)



# 35th Recognition Banquet

March 19, 2026

You are invited to our **Recognition Banquet and in-person board meeting**, which will be held at the Confluence Technology Center in Wenatchee on **Thursday, March 19, 2026**.

Overnight accommodations will be provided for out of town board members. Details will be shared later this month.

## SkillSource at Work



### Rep. Ybarra Visit

Thank you to Representative Alex Ybarra for spending time at SkillSource in Wenatchee. Participants and staff joined Ybarra to share experiences across apprenticeships, training programs, and small business support, offering a clear picture of how workforce services create real, lasting impact in people's lives.

We appreciated Rep. Ybarra's thoughtful questions and engagement, and look forward to



### Opportunities in Progress

A quick snapshot of a few funding opportunities we are exploring:

- Disaster Relief: our team has been researching needs related to the recent flooding -- specifically in Chelan County - - to potentially submit a disaster relief grant application to Dept. of Labor in order to support affected businesses and workers.
- Youth Build: we are partnering with NCW Tech Alliance and NC ESD to possibly apply for

continuing the conversation as we work together to strengthen career pathways across our region.

[Read + Share](#)

a Youth Build grant to train young people in the construction industry.

- [Re-entry](#): WA State Dept. of Commerce has a grant opportunity to provide pre and post-release workforce services to incarcerated individuals to help them transition into training and employment. We are exploring an application.

The photo above doesn't represent any of those efforts, but it is a fun capture that features our fiscal director, Laura and comms coordinator, Jazmin at our December staff training and holiday celebration. 🌟

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The [Board page on our website](#) is updated with 2026 committee and board meeting dates and an archive of past In The Loop issues. If there is anything else you need, please reply to this email, or [reach out to Kelli](#) at any time.

Thank you!

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