



November 7, 2023

In October 2023, the [Career Connect Northwest \(CCNW\)](#) Team, hosted by the Northwest Educational Service District 189 (NWESD) led our second annual WAVE Tour at the Northwest Carpenter's Institute (NWCi) in Burlington, WA from October 23, 2023 – October 26, 2023. The WAVE tour has historically been run in the spring but was moved to October to reinforce for students that considering an Apprenticeship and considering college/university options should be given equal consideration. As in previous years, the students who participated were given an event evaluation survey at the conclusion of the event so that we can gather their feedback and hear about their experiences. Students had the opportunity to provide their contact information if they wanted to get additional information about apprenticeship opportunities in our region. You can see a snapshot of the Fall 2023 WAVE Tour statistics below.

Regional Participation

- **Length of event:** 4 days
- **Number of schools attended:** 21 schools plus the Welding, Construction and Maritime courses from the Northwest Career and Technical Academy (NCTA). Additionally, the NWESD Migrant Out of School Youth reengagement program was able to bring 6 students and their families.
- **Counties represented:** Students attended from Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island and San Juan counties.
- **Number of schools attended:** 21 schools plus the Welding, Construction and Maritime courses from the Northwest Career and Technical Academy (NCTA). Additionally, the NWESD Migrant Out of School Youth reengagement program was able to bring 6 students and their families.
- Schools were given the opportunity to RSVP for up to 30 students.
- **Initial RSVPs** totaled 620 students.
- **Number of students that attended:** 384

Student Demographics

- 44.5% of students were BIPOC including 21.4% Hispanic
- 6.7% Native American/Alaskan Native
- 9.7% Multiple Races/Ethnicities
- 3.1% African American/Black
- 3.6% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 18.1% of the students surveyed identify as female.
- 55.6% of students surveyed were Seniors considering their next steps after graduation in Spring 2024.

Student Evaluations

- **Number of student Event Evaluations** received: 360
- 36% of students surveyed indicated that they were most surprised to learn about the wages/salaries and benefits for those in the Construction Trades.
- 84.8% of student survey respondents indicated that their knowledge of careers in the construction trades increased.
 - Of those students who indicated that their knowledge of construction trades increased, 74.8% indicated an increase of 2 points or more when surveyed using a 7-point scale.
- 86.6% of respondents indicated a notable likeliness to apply for an apprenticeship in the construction trades.

- 73.1% of students surveyed opted to be contacted after the event and provided their contact information to learn more about apprenticeship opportunities.

Trades Organizations participation

1. Operating Engineers Regional Training Program JATC
2. Construction Laborers 292
3. Electrician Apprenticeship Program JATC
4. Carpenters Local 70 and the Northwest Carpenter's Institute
5. Puget Sound Energy
6. MacDonald-Miller Facility Services
7. Apprenticeships 101 Orientation presented by Labor and Industries

Media Coverage

Skagit Valley Herald (Front Page Coverage) - [Local students get a taste of the trades](#) by Racquel Muncy

Post-Event Press Release from NWESD – [WAVE Tour gives students hands-on experience with trades](#)

Sponsorship

The WAVE Tour was sponsored by HF Sinclair, Milwaukee Tools, and Career Connect Washington.

Organization and Support

In support of the WAVE Tour, several organizations collaborate to make it a success. Career Connect NW, hosted at the NWESD 189, convenes, plans, and facilitates the WAVE Tour, organizing school district attendance, trades presentations, and volunteers. NW Washington STEM and Snohomish STEM, as co-leads of the Career Connect NW Network, are integral in this work. The Northwest Carpenters Training Institute has been an incredible host at their facility in Burlington, Washington, assisting with logistics and presenting to students. Washington Department of Labor & Industry supports by conducting the Apprenticeship 101 session. The Northwest Workforce Council has passed on knowledge from previous tours and supports with supplies and ongoing assistance to students interested in applying for apprenticeships. Also, Lindsay Fiker, former Burlington-Edison High School College and Career Counselor, and imager of the WAVE Tour, continues to volunteer to make the event a success!

For more information about the WAVE Tour, please contact Donovan Tate, Mary Powers, or Jenny Veltri, representatives of the [Career Connect Northwest \(CCNW\)](#) team hosted at the NWESD 189.