



WAVE Tour Statistics at a Glance October 2024

The [Career Connect NW \(CCNW\)](#) Team, hosted by the Northwest Educational Service District 189 (NWESD), led our third annual WAVE Tour at the Skagit County Fairgrounds, a new venue for the event, from October 21-24, 2024.

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. A snapshot of the Fall 2024 WAVE Tour statistics are below.

Regional Participation

- **Length of event:** 4 days
- **Counties represented:** Students attended from Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island and San Juan counties.
- **Which schools were invited:** All High Schools in Island, San Juan, Skagit and Whatcom Counties plus 4 school districts in Snohomish County. Additional Snohomish County School Districts reached out requesting invitations, and one of these new districts was able to attend.
- **Each school was given the opportunity to RSVP for up to 30 students.**
- **Number of schools attended:** 22 schools plus the Maritime course from the Northwest Career and Technical Academy (NCTA).
- **Initial RSVPs** totaled 577 students.
- **Number of students that attended:** 332

Media Coverage

- Skagit Valley Herald (Front Page Coverage) – [Students explore careers during WAVE Tour](#) – Ava Ronning
- Post-Event Press Release from NWESD – [WAVE Tour offers hands-on experience to area students](#) – Briana Lindquist

Sponsorship

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

Student Demographics

- 60% of students were BIPOC (a 15.5% increase from fall 2023)
 - 34.3% Hispanic
 - 6.3% Native American/Alaskan Native
 - 13.2% Multiple Races/Ethnicities
 - 2.8% African American/Black
 - 1.3% Asian
 - 1.9% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 25.8% of the students surveyed identify as female (a 7.7% increase from fall 2023)
- 50% of students surveyed were seniors considering their next steps after graduation in Spring 2025.

Student Evaluations

- **Number of student Event Evaluations** received: 318 (95.7% completion rate)
- 39.3% of students surveyed indicated that they were most surprised to learn about the wages/salaries and benefits for those in the Construction and/or Maritime Trades.
- 71.6% of student survey respondents indicated that their knowledge of careers in the Construction and/or Maritime trades increased.
 - Of those students who indicated that their knowledge of Construction and/or Maritime trades increased, 67.4% indicated an increase of 2 points or more when surveyed using a 7-point scale.
- 84.6% of respondents indicated a notable likeliness to apply for an apprenticeship in the Construction and/or Maritime trades.
- 51.6% of respondents indicated that they were more likely to pursue a career in the Construction and/or Maritime trades after attending the WAVE Tour event.
- 58.5% 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. Southwest Mountain States Carpenters Apprenticeship
2. Operating Engineers Regional Training Program JATC
3. Brinderson
4. Snohomish PUD
5. Orcas Power and Light Cooperative (OPALCO)
6. LiUNA! Northwest Laborers-Employers Training Trust
7. Northwest Maritime Apprenticeship
8. Matrix Service
9. Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association Local 528
10. MacMiller and the Local 26 HVAC program
11. Western Washington Sheet Metal JATC and Local 66
12. Apprenticeship 101 Orientation presented by Labor and Industries

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. The Skagit County Fairgrounds were a great host, assisting with logistics and providing event support where needed. Washington Department of Labor & Industry supports by conducting the Apprenticeship 101 session. The NW Workforce Council provides volunteers for the event and ongoing assistance to students interested in applying for apprenticeships.

For more information about the WAVE Tour, please contact Donovan Tate (dtate@nwesd.org) or Jenny Veltri (jveltri@nwesd.org), representatives of the [Career Connect NW \(CCNW\)](#) team hosted at the NWESD 189.