



CAREER CONNECT NW

Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties

Hosted at



**Northwest Educational
Service District 189**

Together We Can



Catalyst.



Connections.



Careers.



ECHO Tour allows middle school students to explore healthcare careers and opportunities

In October, 125 middle school students had the chance to get an up-close look at the medical field thanks to the ECHO Tour. The students made their way through different stations, experiencing hands-on activities to learn about careers in pharmacy, nursing, dermatology, behavioral health, dementia care and more.

The Exploring Careers & Healthcare Opportunities (ECHO) Tour was presented by Career Connect NW, which is hosted at the Northwest Educational District 189.

This event welcomed groups from five middle schools across three districts. About 90% of the attendees reported their knowledge of the healthcare sector increased and about 85% of attendees said they have a notable likeliness of pursuing a career in the healthcare sector after participating in the ECHO Tour event.

Presentations at the event were given by Edmonds College faculty, University of Washington Bothell faculty, Northwest Ambulance, COMPASS Health, IRG Physical Therapy, Washington Poison Center, Davita, Mukilteo Memory Care, Frontier Dermatology, and a retired dental hygienist.

The ECHO Tour for middle school students was supported in part by federal money awarded to Snohomish County by the U.S. Department of Treasury. In addition, Edmonds College provided the use of their facilities at no cost, while Snohomish STEM and Economic Alliance Snohomish County provided workshop coordination assistance and volunteers for the event. Learn more [here](#).



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Together We Can

About Us

The Career Connect NW Network connects industry, education, and community partners to collectively meet the career development needs of Northwest Washington's youth in an equitable and accessible way.

Our Network creates a coordinated effort with planning partners and local stakeholder organizations in Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom communities to serve as a catalyst for initiatives, leveraging resources and programs and building community.

The Career Connect NW Network has three goals:

- Catalyze Regional Stakeholder Partnerships, Collaborations, and Strategies
- Increase Equity and Access to High Wage/High Demand Career Opportunities
- Support Coherent Career Pathways and Workforce Readiness

We are dedicated to equity through attention to data and focus on those historically underrepresented in STEM fields, including students of color, women, students living in rural areas, and students living in poverty.

We foster and promote innovation in approaching how to connect young people to careers, exploring new ways to advance opportunities for students and make them accessible and relevant in their world.

Contact Us

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WAVE Tour offers hands-on experience to area students

The annual WAVE (Washington Apprenticeship Vocational Education) Tour welcomed more than 330 students from 22 different high schools and the Northwest Career and Technical Academy this year. Students visited the event at a new location, the Skagit County Fairgrounds.

The WAVE Tour, presented by Career Connect NW, welcomed several trade partners. Each trade representative set up a station for students to try out skills they would use at family-wage, high-demand jobs throughout the region. This year, the group not only changed location, it also expanded the variety of trades that were represented. CCNW added several new groups and added different apprenticeship pathways, not just those in construction.

"The apprenticeship model is an incredible opportunity for students to have seen rapid growth here in Washington state over the last 10-15 years," said Donovan Tate, CCNW Career Connected Learning Specialist and event organizer. "We are so excited to provide this venue for these trade representatives to share their work with students from around our region, hopefully prompting these students to become their colleagues after graduating from high school."

The WAVE Tour, which took place over four days, welcomed students from all five counties in the NWESD's region. Roughly half of the students in attendance were seniors considering their next steps after graduating. More than 95% of students filled out a survey about the event. Of those, roughly 85% said they were likely to apply for an apprenticeship in the construction or maritime trades and 72% said their knowledge of those trades had increased.

Participating trades this year were the Southwest Mountain States Carpenters Apprenticeship, Operating Engineers Regional Training Program JATC, Brinderson, Snohomish PUD, Orcas Power and Light Cooperative (OPALCO), LiUNA! Northwest Laborers-Employers Training Trust, Northwest Maritime Apprenticeship, Matrix Service, Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association Local 528, MacMiller and the Local 26 HVAC program, and Western Washington Sheet Metal JATC and Local 66. Students also received an Apprenticeship 101 Orientation presented by Labor and Industries.

The WAVE Tour was sponsored by HF Sinclair, Milwaukee Tools, and Career Connect Washington. Learn more [here](#).

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Dr. Ismael Vivanco, Superintendent of NWESD 189, and Jenny Veltri, Co-Director of Career Connect NW, welcome attendees to the WAVE Tour.

Community partners learn about the WAVE Tour

During the WAVE (Washington Apprenticeship Vocational Education) Tour in October, Career Connect NW hosted more than 20 community members

interested in learning more about how the WAVE Tour helps students explore careers in family wage, high demand careers.

Attendees represented key partners in developing career connected pathways; these organizations included the AGC Education Foundation, Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing & Technology, Economic Development Council of San Juan County, HF Sinclair, Northwest Educational Service District 189 (NWESD), Northwest Workforce Council, Port of Bellingham, Skagit Valley Herald, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington Employment Security Department, Washington State Legislature, and Western Washington University.

Dr. Ismael Vivanco, NWESD 189 Superintendent, welcomed the group and thanked both Career Connect NW for its work in facilitating the WAVE Tour as well as HF Sinclair, the primary sponsor of the event. Career Connect NW Co-Director Jenny Veltri followed, introducing Career Connect NW's goals and discussing how the WAVE Tour fits into their [recently published regional strategies](#) to increase career connected learning through 2027. Alyssa Jackson, also Co-Director for Career Connect NW, shared statistics regarding the event and explained how the WAVE Tour focuses on serving students furthest from opportunity - students of color and females are more highly represented in attendance than the industry average ([check out the statistics from the October 2024 event](#)). Sinead Fitzpatrick Plagge, Career Connected Learning Coordinator for CCNW, wrapped up the presentation explaining how these types of events fit into the bigger picture of aligning career pathways-including initiatives like CTE dual credit- for students in the region.

After learning all of this information, attendees had the opportunity to see the students in action! It was clear that the WAVE Tour is not a traditional career fair, but an experiential opportunity to get a taste of the work that these professionals engage in each day. There were great discussions regarding the WAVE Tour and also how Career Connect NW is applying the model to additional career pathways, like healthcare, through the ECHO (Exploring Careers & Healthcare Opportunities) Tour - coming to Skagit and Whatcom Counties in spring 2025.

Thank you to attendees for spending time learning about this initiative! CCNW looks forward to partnering with you to expand career connected learning opportunities for students in the future. Read more [here](#).

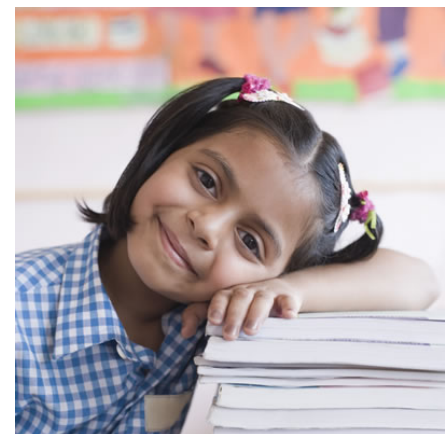


CTE Dual Credit Proviso and Pilot Program: Building pathways to high opportunity careers

Over the past year, Career Connect NW (CCNW) at NWESD 189 has been leading the CTE Dual Credit Proviso and Pilot Program, funded by the Washington State Legislature and administered by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). Spanning the 2023-24 and 2024-25 academic years, this initiative brings together Bellingham Technical College, Everett Community College, Skagit Valley College, and Whatcom Community College along with vital input from regional high school CTE directors to increase student participation in dual credit technical programs.

This past year, CCNW and its college partners have focused on creating a shared vision for CTE Dual Credit. A significant part of this effort involved collaborating with high school partners to review and enhance dual credit procedures and articulations. Participants identified a need for a strategic approach to K-12 partnerships, recognizing gaps in knowledge and the lack of a unified framework for CTE Dual Credit across institutions.

In year two, the process group will focus on:



- Developing a Regional Shared Process: A detailed outline for establishing dual credit articulations with regional proviso colleges.
- Standardized Dual Credit Articulation Forms: A uniform form to initiate articulation requests.
- A Shared Calendar with Key Deadlines: To enhance coordination and communication across partners.

Stay tuned for updates on these developments as we work to create more accessible and consistent CTE Dual Credit pathways for students! Read more [here](#).

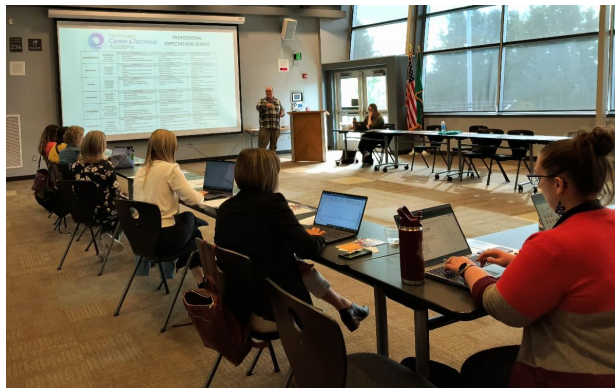
Career Connect NW secures \$80,000 Boeing grant to expand STEM pathways

With a new \$80,000 Boeing Global Engagement grant, Career Connect NW will expand educational pathways in high-demand STEM fields including data science, analytics, cybersecurity, and more. This funding supports career pathways that help set students up to earn post-secondary credentials, preparing them for family-wage careers in Washington's growing STEM workforce.

Aligned with Boeing's "Our Future" initiative, the project builds a diverse, skilled talent pipeline ready for today's dynamic labor market. With a focus on Manufacturing, Engineering, Information Technology, and Computer Science, CCNW is working to expand opportunities for all students, especially those furthest from educational equity, so they can enter promising STEM careers.

Through collaboration with Snohomish County high schools, Everett Community College, and Edmonds College, CCNW is aligning high school curricula with regional college and career pathways. This partnership expands dual credit opportunities, supports teachers, and ensures students have the tools to succeed in high-demand STEM fields. Thank you Boeing Global Engagement for supporting these high-demand pathways for our students!

Read more [here](#).



Jerry Grisham, Work-Based/Work-Site Coordinator from Northwest Career & Technical Academy, presents at the event.

Future Ready: Demystifying minor work permits & internships event removes barriers

On Oct. 3, Career Connect Northwest partnered with [Northwest Career & Technical Academy](#) and [Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County](#) to bring [Labor & Industries \(L&I\)](#) Youth Employment Agent Kristen Goodge to the Future Ready: Demystifying Minor Work Permits & Internships event.

Many employers are interested in offering internships, but confusion over minor work permits, setting up a structured internship schedule, and how schools can assist in this endeavor can feel overwhelming. The event provided solutions to overcoming these barriers and made offering an internship to a minor seem a little easier in the process.

L&I shared documents needed to hire minors, hours of work limitations, break requirements, paid versus unpaid internships, and prohibited duties.



Internship 101 Trivia highlighted that it's free to apply for a minor work permit endorsement through a Business License Application, although there is a \$10 processing fee. Even though a Business License Application is six pages, if you are only applying for the minor work permit endorsement, only four sections on the form need to be completed. This makes the application process much shorter than many employers expect.

The event brought together employers interested in starting internship programs and work-based learning coordinators from high schools in the region. It was also noted that many students at Northwest Career & Technical Academy and Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center are already 18 years old, so there are many students under 18 and over 18 eager for internship opportunities and ready to engage in the workplace.

Read more [here](#).

Guiding High School Students: Register for asynchronous Resume 101 workshop

Career Connect NW created a Canvas course, "Guiding High School Students: Resume 101 Workshop," to prepare advisors, educators, counselors, and teachers to help students build a modern resume. This asynchronous Canvas course offered through pdEnroller is a resource for anyone helping students with resumes. It includes ready-to-use resume templates for students, slides to use in the classroom, and up-to-date information on how technology such as AI and Applicant Tracking Systems impact resume writing.

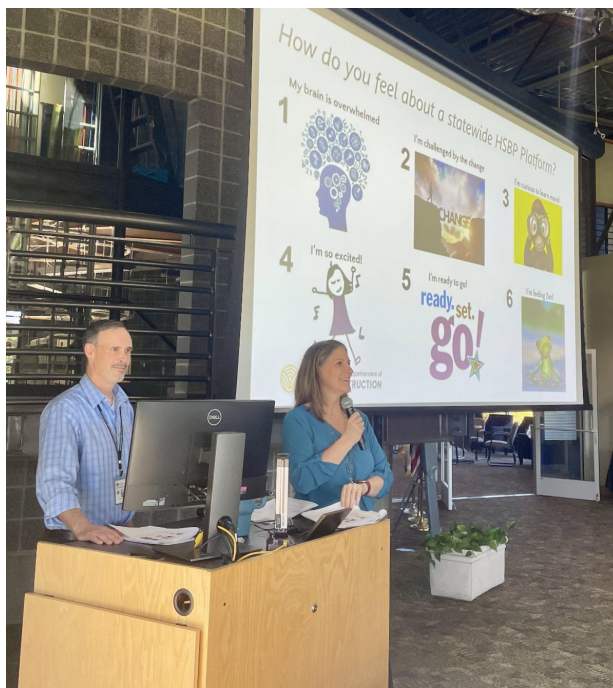
OSPI's High School & Beyond Plan requires students to build a resume or an activity log by the end of 12th grade. OSPI purchased SchoolLinks, Inc. for the Universal Online HSBP Platform and it will include a resume builder. The Resume 101 Workshop is an optional resource to use until the HSBP Platform is implemented, which will begin in Fall 2025. Participants enroll in the course and they can use the "grab & go" resources in the modules as often as needed! The resources are customized for schools using Microsoft platforms as well as Google platforms. Read more [here](#).

Registration Information:

- Register online: [Guiding High School Students: Resume 101 Workshop](#)
- Registration fee: \$55
- STEM Clock Hours: 5 are available after completing the course for an additional charge.



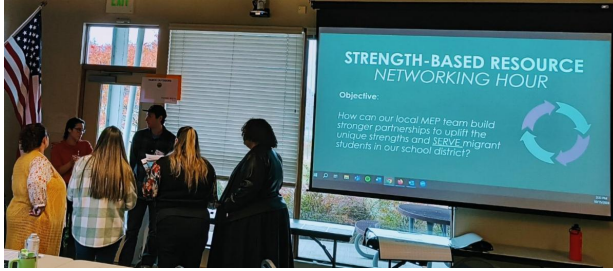
Career Connect NW in the Community



September 19: HS&B OSPI Listen & Learn

More than 50 educators and community members attended the High School

& Beyond Platform Listen and Learn” session presented by Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and hosted by Career Connect NW at the Northwest Educational Service District 189. Thank you to Stephanie Thompson, Tim McClain, and Jill Diehl from OSPI who presented and answered questions and Shannon Leatherwood, Superintendent at Coupeville School District, who discussed her past experience with the platform.



October 15: Migrant Education & Strength-Based Resource Networking Hour

Career Connect NW collaborated with the Migrant Education Staff from Northwest Washington to host a Collaboration Station during their Regional Convening to share upcoming events migrant youth can attend in the NW Region. The carousel-style event had the Migrant Education Staff divided into small groups and visit each station for 5 minutes to learn about career connected learning resources. Career Connect NW, VAMOS Outdoors, Goodwill Industries, FuturesNW and several other organizations also participated.



October 17: STEM Like ME!® at Snohomish High School

Career Connect NW staff supported Snohomish STEM's STEM Like ME!® event at Snohomish High School. Over 300 students explored different careers at hands-on activity stations, including learning nautical knot tying, examining clay samples from local wetlands, building a simulation city using urban planning processes and more. Thanks to employer partners Harmsen, LLC, Core Design, Snohomish County PUD, Snohomish County Public Works, Northwest Maritime Apprenticeships, Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center, and Zap Energy for creating exciting career exploration experiences for students! Read more [here](#).





October 23: Clean Tech Energy

During Seattle Fusion Week, facilitated by the [CleanTech Alliance](#) and the Pacific NW Center of Excellence for Clean Energy (the Career Connect Washington sector leaders for this industry), Career Connect NW's Alyssa Jackson participated on a panel that did an excellent job laying out actionable next steps for businesses wanting to help build the CleanTech workforce. Career Connect NW was proud to offer STEM clock hours for teachers attending the education portion of the event!



October 24: AMTEC Manufacturing Panel

FANUC America Corporation, Everett Community College's AMTEC program and Washington State University Everett held a convening for "Aligning Skills for Industry and Education!" event. Career Connect NW's Sinead Fitzpatrick Plagge was a key panelist, discussing innovative ways for industry to bridge career pathways from K-12 all the way to college programs.



October 25: CCNW Tours bp Cherry Point Refinery Open House

Career Connect NW team members toured bp Cherry Point Refinery during their Open House in Bellingham. bp also offered tours for high schools in the region that week to learn about careers. The refinery participated in STEM Like ME!® last year at Meridian Middle School and they are participating in another STEM Like ME!® event at Nooksack Valley Middle School in November. Here, Jessica Hagerty, a graduate from Bellingham Technical College's Instrumentation and Control Technology program, demonstrates safety procedures in the bp Instrument & Electrical Shop where she works as an I&E Technician.



October 27-29: National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships Conference

Career Connect NW's Sinead Plagge and Jenny Veltri attended the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) Conference with Washington state colleagues. The convening explored best practices and insights on enhancing dual enrollment programs nationwide.



November 7: STEM Rising Stars Celebration

At the Washington STEM Summit, 11 young women from across the state were honored as STEM Rising Stars, including two from the NW region! Congratulations to Jaqueline Rodriguez-Mendoza from Nooksack Valley High School, Laasya Chintamani from Henry M. Jackson High School, and all of the STEM Rising Stars across Washington. Their accomplishments are significant and aspirations inspiring. The future of STEM shines bright!

Spring Student Career Exploration Events

Feb. 26, 2025: FuturesNW's Learning with Leaders at Bellingham Technical College

Learn more: [LEARNING WITH LEADERS — FuturesNW](#)

March 8, 2025: Whatcom Community College's Guys & Guts (for middle school and high school boys) at Whatcom Community College

Registration link: [Guys & Guts Workshop](#) | [Whatcom Community College](#)

April 1, 2025: Career Connect NW's Skagit County ECHO at Skagit Valley College

Registration through high school counselor

April 2-3, 2025: Career Connect NW's Whatcom County ECHO at Whatcom Community College

Registration through high school counselor

April 26, 2025: Whatcom Community College's Digital Download (for middle school and high school girls) at Whatcom Community College

Registration link: [Digital Download Workshop](#) | [Whatcom Community College](#)

May 2, 2025: FuturesNW's Learning with Leaders at Whatcom Community College

Learn more: [LEARNING WITH LEADERS — FuturesNW](#)

Upcoming professional development events

Looking for online clock hours?

Use our QR code to easily search for upcoming STEM clock hour opportunities. The classes are online via Canvas, asynchronous (so you can take them when and where you want, at your own pace), and between 1 and 10 hours long.



For more information contact: Polly Myers, Online Learning Coordinator, pmyers@nwesd.org, 360-299-4031.

Check out all the Professional Learning events [here](#).

Check out all of events that offer clock hours [here](#).

Sign up for the Career Connect NW e-news [here](#).

To learn more, connect and get involved: www.CareerConnectNW.org.

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