

WEDA Winter Legislative Conference 2009

Mike Brennan

Workforce Board

February 23, 2009



**Workforce Training
and Education
Coordinating Board**

Workforce - Your important ally

Workforce Board

A Governor-appointed body representing a partnership of business, labor, and government.

- Advises the Governor on workforce development policy, ensures that the state's workforce preparation services and programs work together, and evaluates performance.
- Advocates for the non-baccalaureate training and education needs of the workers who account for about 75 percent of Washington state's workforce.



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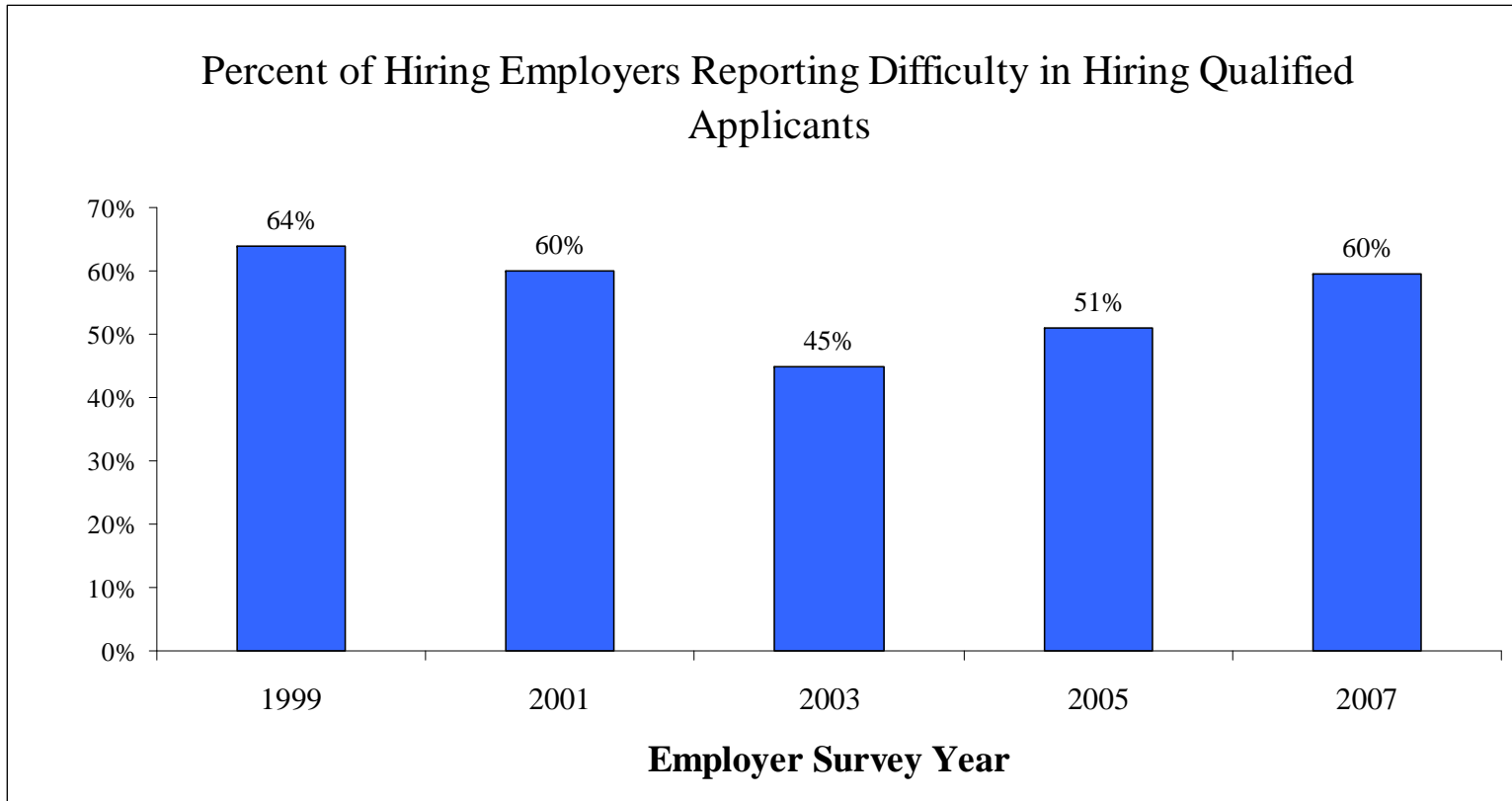
The Board's Mission.....

- **Research – data development**
- **Policy formation – based on the data**
- **Inter-agency and industry communication and coordination**
- **Career guidance**
- **Private Career School licensing**
- **Program – innovation and technical assistance at the regional level**



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Employers found it difficult to hire qualified workers



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Results by Workforce Development Area

Workforce Development Area	Number of Employers Who had Difficulty Hiring	Percent of Employers Attempting to Hire	Percent of All Employers
Benton-Franklin Counties	2,400	59%	42%
Eastern Partnership	3,200	65%	52%
King County	35,800	56%	50%
North Central Washington	5,500	76%	64%
Northwest Washington	9,500	77%	66%
Olympic Consortium	5,700	60%	50%
Pacific Mountain	4,300	33%	27%
Pierce County	9,700	59%	47%
South Central	5,000	62%	55%
Snohomish County	7,700	61%	47%
Southwest Washington	6,200	61%	43%
Spokane County	8,900	71%	61%
Statewide	104,100	60%	50%



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Skill Shortages Throughout the Economy (This Isn't Just About High Tech.)

Firms, by Sector and Size	Percent of Employers Attempting to Hire - 2007	Percent of All Employers
		2007
Agriculture/Food Processing	63%	54%
Construction	69%	63%
High Technology *	47%	30%
Manufacture	67%	50%
Services	48%	42%
Trade	75%	63%
Other Industry	64%	49%
Large (100+ Workers)	75%	69%
Medium (20-99 Workers)	61%	59%
Small (1-19 Workers)	58%	46%
All Firms	60%	50%



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Greatest Shortages Are for Specific Job Skills and General Workplace Skills

Skills	Percent of Employers Attempting to Hire - 2007	Percent of All Employers
		2007
Occupation-specific skills	82%	42%
Problem solving or critical thinking skills	79%	41%
Positive work habits and attitudes	69%	36%
Communication skills	65%	34%
Team work skills	64%	33%
Ability to adapt to changes in duties and responsibilities	64%	33%
Ability to accept supervision	56%	29%
Math Skills	48%	25%
Writing skills	39%	20%
Computer skills	38%	20%
English as a Second Language skills	34%	18%
Reading skills	27%	14%



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Regional Resources

Your need to know list!



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- Workforce Development Council(s)
 - Director
 - Business Liaison
 - Reciprocal Board membership
- Resources:
 - Access to state and federal resources
 - Co-sponsored grant potential
 - Liaison to education and training



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- WorkSource Center(s)
 - Employment Security Area Director
 - WorkSource Center Director
- Resources:
 - Access to state and federal resources
 - Participation in regional grant(s)
 - Liaison to education and training
 - Lots of valuable employment and salary/wage information (<http://www.workforceexplorer.com/>)



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Education

- **Community College**
 - Workforce Dean
- **Technical College**
 - Workforce Dean
- **School District Skill Center**
 - Center Director



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Education

Resources:

- New & incumbent worker training resources
- A wide variety of skill & technical classes
- Extended learning opportunities
- Employee pipeline source



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Programs:

- **Skill Panels** - Industry skill panels are public/private partnerships of business, labor and education - alliances working together to improve the skills of workers in industries vital to Washington's economy.
- **Strategic Fund Grants** - Build on the state's strategy that focuses on regional clusters, ensuring that clusters have the skilled workers needed to continue growing



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Skill Panels – Serve the industries that drive Washington's economy

- Transportation & Logistics
- Construction
- Healthcare
- Homeland Security
- IT
- Electronics
- Aerospace
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Life Sciences
- Pulp & Paper
- Recreation & Tourism
- Apprenticeship
- Energy
- Food Processing
- Medical Devices
- Manufacturing – Advanced & General – Rural - Marine
- Automotive Technology
- Marine Technology
- Marine Towing
- Green Construction
- Electronic Gaming
- Nursing
- Wood Products
- Recreation
- Professional Services



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Strategic Fund Grants

- **NW WDC/EDA of Skagit County** - Washington Intracoastal marine and Manufacturing Industries Alliance
- **Eastern WA Partnership WDC/Southeast WA EDA** - Eastern Washington Partnership Manufacturing Skills Initiative
- **WDC of Seattle-King County/enterpriseSeattle** – Interactive Media
- **WDC of Seattle-King County/enterprise Seattle** – Maritime Transportation
- **South Central WDC/Yakima County Development Association** - Central Washington Renewable Energy Planning Initiative



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Questions?

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