

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 6, 2011

## **Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center to Host Conference— A STEM Agenda: Connecting STEM with Workforce Education**

*National experts and regional leaders gather to create a plan to connect STEM-based learning with workforce education and provide greater opportunities for high school and community college students.*

Thursday, May 19, 2011

8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center

South Seattle Community College—Georgetown Campus

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South Seattle Community College's Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center is hosting, along with the Manufacturing Industrial Council of Seattle and the Seattle Community Colleges, the upcoming working conference *A STEM Agenda: Connecting STEM with Workforce Education*. The conference will examine the anticipated shortfall of qualified manufacturing and industrial workers in the region and create an action plan to address this need through greater cooperation between industry, labor, the public schools and community college system.

### **Anticipated Shortfall of Qualified Workers**

William Symonds of the Pathways to Prosperity Project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and lead author of [Pathways to Prosperity: Meeting the Challenge of Preparing Young Americans for the 21st Century](#) and Dan Sturtevant with the MIT Engineering Systems Division and lead author of [Challenges and Opportunities for the Washington State Aerospace Workforce](#) are the keynote speakers. These researchers, working independently of each other, recently assessed public education in the United States and in the State of Washington. They arrived at remarkably similar conclusions about our need to: better connect K-12 and post-secondary learning, better expose students to work-based learning experiences, and directly engage businesses with education at all levels.

### **Regional Leaders to Speak**

The conference will include participation from leaders in area industry and education including: Jill Wakefield, Chancellor, Seattle Community Colleges; Susan Enfield, Interim Superintendent,

Seattle Public Schools; Dean Allen, CEO, McKinstry; and Jonelle Adams, Executive Director, Washington State School Directors' Association.

### **Creating a Plan to Move Forward**

Working break-out sessions will focus on two key areas: Transitional Math and Aerospace Educational Initiatives.

### **Conference Registration**

The conference is limited to 120 attendees and spaces are currently available. Registration is \$75 per participant, including meals. Registration is available at <http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=965378>.

### **Conference Co-Sponsors**

Aerospace Machinists 751 • Association of General Contractors • Boeing Company • Fred Hutchinson Science Education Partnership • Manufacturing Industrial Council of Seattle • Northwest Literacy Foundation • Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center • Seattle Community Colleges • Washington Association for Career and Technical Education • Washington Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Materials Manufacturing • Washington State Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee • Washington State School Directors' Association • Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

### **About Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center**

The Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center offers customized corporate and contract training programs designed to meet workforce training needs. The Center serves as a focal point for business, labor and community in support of economic development, educational opportunities, family wage jobs and global competitiveness in greater South King County. To learn more visit <http://georgetown.southseattle.edu/PSIEC/>.



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