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Local workforce leader tells Senate public-private partnerships are vital to training for jobs with a future

WASHINGTON DC - Testifying before a Senate labor subcommittee in Washington, D.C., today, Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County CEO Marléna Sessions said public-private training partnerships are giving needed skills to thousands of local workers in high demand, high wage healthcare jobs.

“For more than a decade our organization has joined forces with hospitals, employers, colleges, and unions in a productive partnership to put people back to work in careers with a solid future,” said Sessions. “Our latest regional joint training initiative is called Health Careers for All, a five-year program that will train up to 920 more Seattle area adults and youth.”

Sessions was joined by Dr. Barbara Trehearne of Group Health Cooperative to spotlight innovative public-private partnerships that are helping local workforce organizations battle the worst unemployment since the Great Depression. Their comments came before an [employment subcommittee](#), chaired by Senator Patty Murray, of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

“Seattle is a national model for their great work training workers and helping local businesses through strong and effective community partnerships, especially in the health care sector,” said Senator Murray. “As our economy gets more complex and our workforce more diverse, we need to make sure that we are investing in the most effective partnerships and programs to move workers into good careers in the growing local industries that need them.”

Sessions cited similar results from other joint training efforts in areas such as advanced manufacturing, maritime, green building, aerospace and information technology.

“Our experience proves that when employers are engaged with partners in workforce and education, the solutions we find together are always more effective than what any of us can do alone,” said Sessions.

For more information about the hearing, “*Addressing Workforce Needs at the Regional Level: Innovative Public-Private Partnerships*,” and to watch the webcast, [click here](#).

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The **Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County** (www.seakingwdc.org) is a nonprofit workforce “think tank” and grant-making organization that oversees employment-related programs for youth, the adult workforce and employers in King County, with the goal of a strong economy and self-sufficiency for every resident.



The Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County is an Equal Opportunity Employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Washington Telecommunications Relay System, 800.833.6384 or 7-1-1.