



For Immediate Release:
December 14, 2011

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Career navigators connect students and jobseekers to employment

SEATTLE—A new report from the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County highlights the role of career navigators in helping students and jobseekers complete job training and connect to employment.

At one local community college, students who worked with a navigator were far more likely to finish their automotive training courses and get jobs in a related field—as well as stay in their jobs.

“We wanted to share what we’ve learned about this incredibly effective model,” said Marléna Sessions, CEO of the Workforce Development Council. “Navigators really link between systems, industries and agencies to support students and staff alike.”

Connecting to Employment explains the work of a career navigator in two models, one in which the navigator works to directly support people in training, and one in which the navigator is a resource and relationship builder among agency staff and employers.

The WDC’s Homeless Employment Navigator partnership is an example of the latter, “staff resource” model. As described in the report, navigators trained WorkSource Seattle-King County staff in working with homeless jobseekers, while also helping people living in transitional housing sites to bridge to WorkSource employment services and job training.

The former, “customer resource” model is exemplified by the Automotive Career Pathways project at Shoreline Community College. A WDC-funded career navigator works with students to help them find financial aid, connect with services in the community as needed, get jobs and keep increasing their training after the program.

An evaluation by the Aspen Institute, which funded the automotive project, showed that students who worked with the navigator were more successful in all measures—including completing training, getting a job afterwards, and continuing to more advanced training—than those in the same program who did not.

“Career navigators can make existing systems work better together, leading to greater efficiency as well as fewer hurdles for jobseekers and students,” said Sessions. “We hope that value will become more recognized.”

To read the entire report, visit our website at www.seakingwdc.org or [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.



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