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New study shows pockets of hope in labor market

SEATTLE—King County’s first [Talent Pipeline Study](#), released today by the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County, reveals opportunities in occupations across three key local industries.

In all three of the WDC’s focus sectors—health care, manufacturing and transportation/logistics—the Talent Pipeline Study shows both workforce shortages and surpluses between 2014 and 2019, projecting 19,400 new jobs over the five-year period, and more importantly pinpointing their occupations.

“This ground-breaking study gives us a new and powerful tool for making wise investments in job training,” said King County Executive Dow Constantine. “When resources are scarce, we need to be even more strategic so we make the most impact for our residents—and this data makes that possible.”

The Talent Pipeline Study is unique in employment research because it estimates shortages and surpluses at the occupation level within the three sectors—and includes experienced, unemployed people as part of the supply-and-demand equation.

“The study is a different way of looking at the labor market,” said Marléna Sessions, CEO of the Workforce Development Council. “For the first time, we’re seeing supply and demand at the occupation level, which gives the community important new information for planning workforce programs.”

Specifically, the WDC will use the study to direct its significant investments in job training in King County and to influence the development of training programs that prepare workers. The WDC, a nonprofit with a private-sector-led board, oversees federal job-training funds as well as the WorkSource system in Seattle-King County.

Some key findings:

- A total of 55,700 job openings are expected between 2014-2019, of which 19,400 are new jobs.
- At least four of the five highest-demand jobs in all three industries will face a shortage of trained workers.
- The shortage will be especially pronounced in transportation and logistics—including the local maritime industry.
- In health care, the highest-demand jobs include home health aides, registered nurses and medical scientists.
- In manufacturing, high-demand jobs include shipping/receiving/traffic clerks and team assemblers, which are lower-paid jobs—but also higher-paid logisticians and mechanical engineers.
- All types of engineers are expected to continue to be in short supply in manufacturing.
- In transportation/logistics, however, most of the high-demand jobs are in lower-paid, lower-skilled occupations such as truck drivers and laborers.

Read the Talent Pipeline Study at our website: www.seakingwdc.org.

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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.