

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF SEATTLE-KING COUNTY  
MEMORANDUM

<b>TO:</b>	Full Board
<b>FROM:</b>	Marisol Tapia Hopper
<b>DATE:</b>	12/14/2023
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Staff Presentations & Panels

**INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY**

Marisol Tapia Hopper and Avi Laudon attended the Skills in the States Forum organized by the National Skills Coalition from November 15-17. Marisol had the privilege of contributing to a panel discussion alongside esteemed colleagues, delving into the crucial topic of [“Creating a Workforce System that Serves and Centers Workers.”](#)

**Session Details:**

With a workforce system that has historically been riddled with racist narratives and systemic barriers, it is imperative to intentionally engage workers and learners in designing the solutions. Learn how community-based organizations, worker centers, community colleges, and human services providers have implemented innovative strategies and built partnerships to redesign the workforce system while centering the voices and expertise of those closest to the work and directly impacted by the issues.

**Speakers included:**

**Aquilina Soriano Versoza**, Executive Director, Pilipino Worker Center of Southern California

**Julie Parks**, Dean & Executive Director of Workforce Training & Tassell M-Tec, Grand Rapids Community College

**Marisol Tapia Hopper**, Director of Strategic Partnerships & Funding, Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County

Moderated by **Karina Paredes-Arzola**, State Network Manager, National Skills Coalition

## **BACKGROUND/CONTEXT**

The Regional Transformation called for a major shift and restructuring of the WDC to position the organization to serve as the regional workforce development backbone organization. Over the past four years, the WDC team has worked tirelessly to realign the WDC and enhance its capabilities to effectively implement the vision and objectives of the Regional Workforce Development Transformation

Since the release of the Regional Strategic Plan in early 2021, the WDC team has played a pivotal role in putting these strategies into action, garnering national recognition for their efforts. Marisol's involvement in the following speaking engagements underscores WDC's leadership, innovative approaches, and unwavering dedication to catalyzing system change in the region. These opportunities have allowed us to showcase our commitment to racial equity and excellence among peers, partners, and stakeholders.

### **Speaking Opportunities:**

- 2022 & 2023 National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB)
- 2022 California Workforce Association's Meeting of the Minds
- 2023 Net Inclusion
- 2023 National Skills Coalition Summit (Capitol Hill Briefing at U.S. Senate)
- 2023 Washington State Digital Equity Summit
- 2023 Skills in the States Forum