

**Apprenticeship in State Public Contracting Task Force**  
**Wednesday, May 30, 2014**  
**Chemeketa Community College, Salem, OR**

**Members Present: Sen. Michael Dembrow, Rep. Caddy McKeown, Co-Chairs; Rep. Mark Johnson; Rod Belisle, Barry Jones, Gene Kidd, Cathleen Massier, John Mohlis, Carl Redman, Ron Robbins, Sandy Trainor, Frank Wall**

**Members Excused: Sen. Chuck Thomsen, Tom Gerding**

**Interviews with Chemeketa Community College Faculty**

The Task Force held its fifth meeting at Chemeketa Community College (CCC), for the purpose of touring the College's apprentice training facilities and speaking with training staff. They were welcomed by Johnny Mack, Executive Dean of Career and Technical Education; Glen Miller, Dean of Applied Technologies; and Marilyn Hart Reed, Apprenticeship Director. The panel outlined the types of apprentice programs offered at CCC, and described recent facility improvements underway following passage of a recent bond measure. CCC has trained apprentices for 44 years and currently offers four instruction tracks for non-union construction trades in the following areas: HVAC and refrigeration, plumbing, inside wire electrician and sheetmetal. All instructors are journey-level workers with at least five years of experience. The panel indicated that credits earned at CCC are transferable to other Oregon community colleges through the Oregon Community College Apprentice Consortium. All told, CCC is currently training 100 electricians, 50 plumbers, 12-15 HVAC technicians and 12-15 sheetmetal workers. The group was then joined by Patrick Rooney, a 15-year HVAC apprentice instructor, who provided details regarding the curriculum taught to apprentices in training.

Committee questions and comments for this panel included: the nature of the relationship between community college apprentice training and local apprenticeship councils; whether apprentices receive a variety of work experience; the completion percentage for people entering the program; whether CCC and other community colleges could accommodate a significant influx of additional apprentice students; the size of the pool for eligible candidates; how many applicants applied for the last cycle; the relationship between K-12 STEM education and apprentice programs; the total cost of completing the program; what barriers exist that would limit an increase in apprentices trained at CCC; whether the college would suspend its program if enrollment dropped too low; ability to accommodate persons with disabilities; and the cost for training agents.

**Interviews with non-union apprentice trainers**

Dan Graham and Tiffany Kriesel, with the Northwest College of Construction, provided background on their employer, which was founded by industry associations and provides apprentice programs and management-level training. They described outreach efforts to youth to encourage careers in the trades, while also noting that the apprentice pipeline is ultimately limited by workplace demand. They were joined by Cindy Regier, representing the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), who emphasized the importance of ensuring that the statutes and requirements reflect the current state of the industry. Finally, the Task Force heard from

Ciera Sneelen, an applicant apprentice currently working for Bear Electric; she described how her farm background gave her an advantage over other apprentice candidates, but that it was still a difficult and drawn-out process. The final panel consisted of Ron Loewen and Rick Cherriere, both with the Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors (PHCC), which represents both union and non-union contractors for various trades.

Field Trip – Tour of Chemeketa Community College Apprentice Training Facilities

The Task Force was then given a tour of several training sites on the Chemeketa Community College campus where apprentices receive hands-on training in a laboratory setting.