

SMART GOVERNMENT

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE

WASHINGTON STATE PRODUCTIVITY BOARD

January 2007



“

Providing a safety net is one of the most important services provided by Employment Security - it appeals to our hearts. But helping people find jobs and build economic security is even more rewarding - it satisfies our souls.”

Commissioner Karen Lee
Employment Security Department

In this issue

Celebrating 25 years

Wordsearch

Shared Work Program

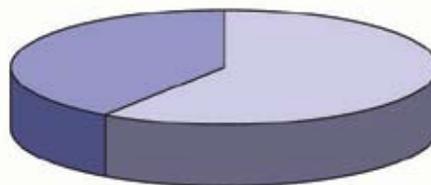
The Productivity Board Celebrates 25 Years of Success

Since its inception 25 years ago, the Productivity Board has saved Washington State an astounding \$54 million - a figure that only reflects savings collected during the first year ideas were implemented. The Productivity Board is the only independent, neutral program of its kind in our state. It puts real money back into the pockets of taxpayers by relying on the creativity and innovation of public employees.

“The Washington State Productivity Board is a proven program that works for the people. In twenty five years it’s saved the State tens of millions of dollars. We have an obligation to protect the people’s money to the very best of our ability.”

-Sam Reed, Secretary of
Productivity Board Chair

Program Results



Employee Suggestion Program:
Individual employees submit ideas to improve efficiency.

Teamwork Incentive Program:
Teams of employees submit process improvements to improve operations.

Employee Suggestion - \$31,837,654

Teamwork incentive Program- \$21,696,769

Outstanding Achievements

- Liquor Control Board - **Savings: \$42,590**
- Department of Social & Health Services - **Savings: \$3,017,204**
- Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction - **Savings: \$122,820**

EXCELLENCE

THE BOTTOM LINE

Team Saves Millions



2007 Board Meetings

- February 2
- March 2
- April 6
- May 4
- June 1

Meetings are held at 10:00 am in the Secretary of State's Office located in the Legislative Building. Contact the Productivity Board office to attend a meeting.



Pictured from left to right: Ken Burnett, Melanie Meyer, Dale Johnson, Barb Green, Anneliese Bulleri, Thomas Birkeland, State Autor Brian Sonntag, Diane Forrester, Diane Martin, Harvey McDonald and Supervisor Stacy Weaver-Wee.

State Employees with the Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) saved taxpayers more than \$2.7 million by changing the way after-adoption services are funded. The services include medical, dental, counseling, etc. are based on state and federal regulations for qualified children. The program's purpose is to make adoption possible for children in legal custody of DSHS, but due to special circumstances might not otherwise be adopted.

Through the Teamwork Incentive Program, the Adoption Support and IV-E programs submitted a plan to conduct an audit of all state funded adoption support cases within Tacoma's Region 5. The purpose of the audit was to reverse incorrectly state funded cases to federally funded cases.

Feature Section



The Employment Security Department's "Shared Work Program" provides qualified employers of Washington State an alternative to layoffs of skilled employees during temporary economic downturns. Shared Work is a voluntary employer initiated program that creates a win/win situation for both employers and participating employees. Employers retain their skilled workforce and are spared the expenses of recruiting, hiring, and training new employees, while also saving on payroll costs. For additional information on the Shared Work Program and employer application forms, visit the Shared Work website: www.wa.gov/esd/tax/sharedwk.htm or call 1-800-752-2500. The Shared Work Program may not be used to subsidize seasonal employers or part-time employees.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) provides financial assistance to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct result of a major disaster declared by the President of the United States. Before an individual can be determined eligible for Disaster Unemployment Assistance, it must be established that the individual is not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits (under any state or federal law). The program is administered by the Washington State Employment Security Department and funded by the federal government. Additional information on the Disaster Unemployment Assistance Program can be obtained at DUA@esd.wa.gov.

WORD SEARCH

Employment Security



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|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Benefits | Business | Career | Claims | Resources |
| Demographics | Economy | Employment | Industry | Resume |
| Insurance | Interviewing | Labor | Occupational | Salaries |



Slated for the first full week of May, Public Service Recognition Week is a nationwide week-long program that honors government employees. Events are scheduled in Bremerton, Olympia, Spokane, Vancouver, and Yakima.

Upcoming PSRW events include the Extra Mile Award, which allows state employees, and the public, to nominate co-workers for extraordinary service and the Ralph Munro Longevity Award, which honors public employees who have worked in state government for 35 years or more.



Productivity Board
Coordinator

Beverly Peterson

Beverly began her state service in 1994 with Employment Security providing technical assistance for a federal ADA project. She is currently a Human Resource Consultant for the Staff Development unit of ESD. She was recently appointed the Productivity Board Coordinator.

QUARTERLY

SPOTLIGHT

“I’m really looking forward to hearing my colleagues’ great ideas; it’s exciting to be a part of the magic of people’s creative process.” - Beverly Peterson

Productivity Board Memebrs:

- Governor Christine Gregoire- Ex-Officio
- Secretary of State Sam Reed - Chair
- State Auditor Brian Sonntag
- Department of General Administration Director Linda Villegas Bremer
- Department of Social & Health Services Kathleen Brockman
- Private Sector Representative- Retired Mike Kerschbaum PEMCO Financial Services
- Speaker of the House Appointee George Masten
- Office Of Financial Management Roselyn Marcus
- Federation of State Employees Appointee Wanda Riley
- Department of Personnel Assistant Director Scott Turner
- Council of College Presidents Executive Director Terry Teale

Washington State Productivity Board

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