

Generation Work Learning Community Partner Meeting – August 31, 2017

SkillUp Washington hosted a quarterly Generation Work Learning Community Partner Meeting at the Seattle Foundation, which was organized for partners to update each other around progress towards different areas of the Generation Work strategic framework, solicit feedback from the group on emerging strategies to connect Opportunity Youth to aerospace apprenticeship pathways, discuss young adult feedback from ethnographic interviews, and identify other aligned opportunities to be included in future and/or current Generation Work activities and/or planning efforts.

Generation Work partners attending the meeting included: SkillUp Washington; Port Jobs; South Seattle College's (SSC) Georgetown campus; Seattle Education Access (SEA), King County Employment and Education's Reconnect to Opportunity program (ReOpp); Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Committee (AJAC); City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development (OED); Educurious; Community Center for Education Results (CCER); Puget Sound Education Service District (PSESD); Office of Superintendent for Public Instruction (OSPI); and the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC).

The Generation Work meeting included a rich and broad array of activities underway to support young adults. All activities and updates featured efforts to integrate and align the work of cross system partners involved in Generation Work.

Generation Work Partner Updates

- Port Jobs reported that for the seven month period January – July 2017 they saw 2,100 unduplicated jobseekers aged 18-29 come through the doors of their Airport Jobs office at Sea-Tac Airport. They indicated that there were 640 job placements for this age group; and noted that the placement rate of 30% was an increase over the previous year (24%). The average placement wage was \$14.80. Seventy percent (70%) of young adults were residents of South King County and 9% were Caucasian. The top five languages spoken by this group were English, Somali, Amharic, Spanish and Tagalog. The top hiring employers for these young adults and Opportunity Youth was McGee Air Services, a wholly owned Alaska subsidiary now performing ramp services for Alaska and Horizon at Sea-Tac. Some of the referral activities mentioned as having an impact on the high number of young adults coming to the Airport Jobs office included ReOpp Peer Connector site visits and presentations about airport job and career opportunities to groups such as the King County Re-Engagement Provider Network and numerous high schools, Skill Centers and young adult job fairs.
- High School 21+ is now launching at the Port Jobs' Airport University program due to the collaborative efforts of OSPI, Highline Public Schools and Highline College. To date, 6 airport workers have enrolled with 3 in the Generation Work age range (18-29). The unique instructional needs and time constraints of incumbent workers, many of whom are required to work overtime were discussed, laying the groundwork for a future body of learning about the pros and cons of different instructional and advising strategies and approaches needed to support this target population. Port Jobs will begin to enroll airport workers without a high school diploma who are younger than 21 years old this fall, with Open Doors funding set to begin in September. The intention is to provide a seamless instruction and classroom experience for Airport University students regardless of age.

- SEA college access services are now being offered at Port Jobs, and are well-received by clients. The Airport Jobs office has served as a positive and welcoming venue for SEA to connect with young adults. Also, SEA will be increasing their presence at the Georgetown campus, working with students entering manufacturing training pathways including the upcoming Mecha Ready cohorts and current YouthBuild participants.
- Educurious' 100,000 Opportunities (100K) newsletter has proven to be a valuable resource for informing young adults about Port Jobs and other resources. In addition, Educurious generously offered to share their [research](#) on how transportation related to employment for youth in the Roadmap Project Region (South Seattle and South King County). Their data will inform the work of 100K and serve as a great model for other similar analyses by Generation Work partners.
- AJAC shared their emerging strategies for increasing access to manufacturing apprenticeship pathways for young adults, specifically regarding how they can more intentionally connect Out-of-School Youth to their Youth Apprenticeship and/or Industrial Manufacturing Technician apprenticeship programs, as well as their pre-apprenticeship training (Manufacturing Academy). This includes a two-day Advanced Manufacturing Prep (AMP) orientation that will be offered every other month at SSC's Georgetown campus and Bates Technical College (see attached flyer for specific dates). AJAC also shared information about their new training facility, a 3,000 square foot center in Kent that will have dedicated classroom and shop space for both apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs (8605 South 212th Street, Kent WA 98031). This will include both day and night-time programs offered in partnership with the SSC Georgetown campus, including one day per week dedicated to young adults, preferably Out-of-School Youth. The facility would also serve as a resource center for those who are interested in entering the manufacturing industry. The conversation included the prospect of scaling up these efforts by leveraging high school completion resources from both OSPI and the SBCTC. The idea of developing a framework and vision for building a multi-district, multi-college consortium focused on engaging youth and young adults in pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships was also discussed.
- ReOpp Peer Connectors continue to provide valuable services and a wealth of information about the needs of young adults. The ReOpp Pilot Project has ended, but the peer connector model will continue with a new wave of young adults taking over this role. These young people will earn \$19.00 per hour, which is an increase over the wage paid during the pilot period.
- Programs at the Georgetown campus are getting ready to launch this fall, including the Mecha Ready boot camp and their Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Machining program, an I-BEST program offered during the week as well as evenings and weekends. They are also running an ESL for the Trades class in the fall (ESL levels 4/5) and an Industrial Certification Week class in October. These classes will provide opportunities for students to earn forklift, traffic control, flagging, CPR and OSHA 10 certificates. Georgetown staff are also tracking math barriers for manufacturing students, many of whom are within the Generation Work age range.

- Excerpts from 42 young adult interviews were discussed, raising concern over the childcare issues faced by some young parents (please see attached). Young adults shared their suggestions for effective strategies to support educational persistence and job access. Generation Work college partners plan to share young adult feedback with instructors.
- SkillUp successfully applied for a three-year grant from the National Fund for Workforce Solutions to plan and launch a new retail industry partnership focused on retail employers at Westfield-Southcenter Mall. Port Jobs will lead the work, in partnership with Educurious and the 100K Initiative, with the intention of replicating their Airport Jobs Center and Airport University program models at the Mall. The initiative will include a focus on improving hiring, job quality and career advancement opportunities for frontline retail workers, especially young adults.

Next Steps

- MDRC will be visiting Seattle on September 26-28 on behalf of the Annie E Casey Foundation to interview Generation Work partners about system change impacts and opportunities associated with the initiative. MDRC plans to attend the upcoming Opportunity Youth Advisory Group meeting on September 27 to get a better sense of how the various partners involved in this work are collaborating; SkillUp will share additional details of the trip with partners as they are developed.
- A tactical group of Generation Work partners, including AJAC, SSC's Georgetown campus, CCER, PSESD, OSPI, SBCTC and SkillUp will be meeting to brainstorm and devise system building solutions for increasing the engagement of Opportunity Youth and Open Doors youth, prior to the September 27th OYAG meeting. This work will be connected to the above discussion about building a vision/framework for a regional OSY Apprenticeship Consortium. These discussions will contribute to the planning efforts associated with AJAC's new facility, and to discussions about potential entities, such as the PSESD, which might be well positioned to be regional sponsors of some of this work, and promoters of equitable processes to meet the needs of multiple school districts. Upcoming funding opportunities, such as the Career Connected Learning resources from Washington STEM, might help catalyze further planning and/or partnership building efforts related to this idea. AJAC plans to present the idea of building a regional consortium approach to increasing OSY involvement in youth apprenticeship pathways to the OYAG group for feedback; AJAC, CCER and SkillUp will have a planning call to sketch out the details of this presentation the week of September 5th.
- Mecha WA staff will present mechatronics career pathway opportunities to re-engagement providers at the next King County Re-Engagement Provider Network meeting at the SSC Georgetown campus on September 8th. The presentation will feature a tour of the Mecha Ready classroom and opportunities for re-engagement staff to ask questions of mechatronics navigators about enrollment requirements, employment and work experience opportunities, and aligned navigation supports (such as SEA). The meeting will also feature young adult feedback from BGCC Generation Work interviews.

- SkillUp will prepare additional data reports and share with Generation Work Requests, including separate summaries of ReOpp and Port Jobs clients. They will also provide data pertaining to young adults dropping out of school and programs to the PSESD to share with their different K-12, detention and postsecondary workgroups.
- The Best Starts for Kids application to support Youth and Young Adults proposal is now open, and applications are due on October 5th. Some Generation Work partners will likely be submitting proposals.