

# LOCAL WORKFORCE BOARDS AND THEIR IMPACT ON TRADES AND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS



OREGON WORKFORCE  
PARTNERSHIP

Local workforce boards are actively engaged with their local workforce partners, including Oregon's public and private sector unions, to develop apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships and effective pathways into the labor market. Many workforce boards across Oregon are at the forefront of creating and expanding apprenticeship opportunities in the trades, clean energy, healthcare, and other high-demand sectors. Below are examples of workforce boards that actively support apprenticeship programs, supported by labor representatives and innovative apprenticeship initiatives.

## PROGRAMMATIC EVIDENCE FROM OREGON WORKFORCE BOARDS

### **Worksystems (Portland Metro Area)**

Worksystems is deeply invested in expanding apprenticeship programs across construction, clean energy, and healthcare sectors by partnering with unions, employers, and training providers to create career pathways, placing individuals in skilled trades, growing opportunities in solar and wind energy, and supporting healthcare roles such as medical assisting, with key advocacy from Zenaida Ehrlich, Regional Coordinator at SEIU-UHW.

### **Rogue Workforce Partnership (Southern Oregon)**

Rogue Workforce Partnership has been instrumental in connecting apprenticeships with local employers, especially in construction and manufacturing sectors. Their Southern Oregon Apprenticeship and Trades Program has seen a considerable increase in registered apprenticeships, with a focus on diversifying opportunities for underrepresented populations.

### **Willamette Workforce Partnership (Mid-Willamette Valley)**

Willamette Workforce Partnership works closely with the Oregon State Apprenticeship and Training Council (OSATC) and local employers to develop apprenticeship programs in fields like construction and advanced manufacturing. Over 100 apprentices have been successfully placed into trades, demonstrating the impact of these partnerships.

### **East Cascades Works (Central Oregon)**

East Cascades Works actively supports apprenticeships in construction and technical trades, facilitating connections between local businesses and individuals interested in joining the trades. Their Apprenticeship Support Program provides mentorship and financial aid to apprentices, helping them succeed in their careers.

### **Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board (Southern Coast)**

SOWIB is dedicated to fostering apprenticeship opportunities, especially in the maritime industry and healthcare. They offer several active apprenticeship programs, including:

- **Early Care and Education Apprenticeship**
- **Medical Assistant Apprenticeship**
- **Surgical Technology Apprenticeship**

The board benefits from the active leadership of labor representatives like Robert Westerman, Mike Hicks, and Rod Sprinkle, who ensure that the apprenticeships meet both industry needs and workers' interests.

### **Northwest Oregon Works (NOW)**

NOW has developed strong apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

**Pre-Apprenticeship Program:** NOW partners with Oregon Coast Community College (OCCC) and the electrical union to offer a pre-apprenticeship program that provides participants with a clear pathway into registered apprenticeships. This is supported by Eric Sherman, the electrical union board representative.

**Behavioral Health Apprenticeship:** NOW has recently expanded its behavioral health apprenticeship program from focusing on Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors (CADC) to also include Qualified Mental Health Associates (QMHA).

# KEY LABOR REPRESENTATIVES SUPPORTING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS



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Local labor representatives play a crucial role in advocating for and supporting apprenticeship programs across Oregon, while workforce boards drive the development and expansion of these programs in key sectors such as construction, healthcare, and clean energy. Through collaboration with labor unions and educational institutions, they create pathways into high-demand industries, ensuring programs meet industry standards and provide workers with long-term career opportunities.

These labor leaders ensure that apprenticeship programs are responsive to the needs of workers, employers, and industries, supporting the ongoing success of these initiatives.

## **Clackamas Workforce Partnership**

Vanessa Steward; SMART 16  
Manuel Contreras; AFSCME

## **East Cascades Works**

Robbie Smith; IBEW 280  
John Hanner; LiUNA 737  
Dave Burger; UA 290

## **Eastern Oregon Workforce Board**

Jeff Gritz; LiUNA 737  
Brian Lemke; MW Carpenters  
Meridith Hickman; AFSCME

## **Lane Workforce Partnership**

Monica Bielski Boris; AFSCME  
Lynn McDonald; IBEW 932  
Jeff McGillivray; UA 290

## **Northwest Oregon Works**

Eric Sherman; IBEW 932  
Gabe Gurule; IAFF  
John Hawkins; SEIU 503  
Mario Calderon; LiUNA 737

## **Rogue Workforce Partnership**

Lance Corley; IBEW 659  
Drew Waits; UA 290  
Nick Carpenter; Oregon Building Trades

## **Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board**

Robert Westerman; IBEW 932  
Mike Hicks; IAMAW 24  
Rod Sprinkle; Ironworkers 29

## **Willamette Workforce Partnership**

Mike Ellison; IBEW 280  
Shane Nehls

## **Worksystems Inc.**

Kate Baker; AFSCME  
Hayley Watson; Oregon Building Trades  
Josh Hall; Oregon AFL-CIO

## **Workforce Talent & Development Board**

Josh Hall; Oregon AFL-CIO  
Andy Friedman; United We Heal  
Dave Burger; UA 290

Oregon's workforce boards have strong partnerships with labor representatives and play a vital role in supporting apprenticeship programs across the state. These programs in build a skilled and diverse workforce for Oregon's future.

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**LEARN MORE** about the Oregon Workforce Partnership at [www.oregonworkforcepartnership.org](http://www.oregonworkforcepartnership.org)