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### **Third Annual Construction Carnival brings hands-on *aha* moments to students**

**October 22, 2009 - Everett, WA**—Almost 400 pre-registered high and middle school students will don safety goggles, hard hats, and ear plugs to storm the halls of the Western Washington Sheet Metal Joint Apprenticeship Training Center, from 8am to 3pm, all in the name of learning about careers in the building trades.

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC) is pleased to host its third annual Construction Carnival—a day of hands-on demonstration and inspiring conversation—sponsored by a team of union and industry professionals who are committed to end the workforce shortages in this key industry.

“Residential construction may be down right now,” explains Sam Samano of Workforce Development Council Snohomish County, “but commercial construction is still booming as is infrastructure work across the state. Kids need to know that there are always career opportunities for skilled workers, and the Construction Carnival is here to show them how many different avenues are available to them.”

The Construction Carnival is not your average career fair. Instead, teams of journeymen are on-site to answer questions and offer high school students the opportunity to try their hands at a number of tasks while learning about careers in the construction trades. With its carnival-like atmosphere, complete with the chance to ride a boom lift, frame a house, lay brick, eat a hamburger, and find a pathway to an exciting, high-demand career, the event has proven to be a hit.

“We love to get kids working with tape measures and hammers,” explains Eric Peterson with the Western Washington Sheet Metal JATC. “Before they know it, they’re using math without even realizing it’s the same subject they take at school. And you see it in their faces—*aha!*—*this is why I have to learn that stuff.*”

Energizing youth about construction careers is an important initiative in Snohomish County as workforce demand outnumbers skilled workers and students often enter, and exit, high schools without seeing the relevance courses like math and science will have in their future careers. It’s the Carnival’s aim to provide students with a glimpse into practical application of every day lessons from the classroom. It helps, too, that they leave with a tool tray they bent into shape all on their own—something to show off in the halls of the high schools to which they return.

Event sponsors include Western Washington Sheet Metal JATC, The Painters and Allied Trades, Sno-Isle TECH skills Center, Edmonds Community College Construction Training Program, WorkSource Snohomish County, Mater Builder's Career Connection, Edmonds Community College, Habitat for Humanity, Brightwater Treatment Facility, and Star Rentals.

Additional exhibitors include Northwest Washington Electrical Industry JATC, Northwest Laborers Employee Training, United Associations of Journeymen, Western Washington Masonry Trades, Pacific Northwest Ironworkers, Operating Engineers Regional Training, Boilermaker's Apprenticeship Program, Construction Industry Training Council, IEC of Washington, Washington State Department of Labor and Industry, Seattle Area Roofers Apprenticeship Program, Heat and Frost Allied Workers JATC, and more.

Exhibitor fees cover the cost of providing lunch for the students; Brightwater Treatment Facility chips in to cover the cost of bus transportation and substitute teachers. The carnival was originally scheduled to be held last April at Sno-Isle Tech Skills Center but was canceled due to a fire at the Center.

#### **Workforce Development Council Snohomish County (WDCSC)**

WDCSC invests government and private funding to continuously increase the global competitiveness and prosperity of county workforce and businesses, fill current and emerging jobs, and provide full employment. Investments are made through effective business, labor, community-based, educational, and service provider organizations for the opportunity, economic well-being, and benefit of our entire community.

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