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# Help if you lose your job

## Career center connects the unemployed

By Theresa Poalucci  
With reports of unemployment teetering at just under 10 percent, these are indeed scary times for those of us who work for a living. And although there is much talk about stimulus packages and grants for education, it can all seem a bit ethereal when you have just lost your job.

Where does one start to look for new employment? Scour the want ads in the newspaper or call an employment agency? Go back to school and learn something new? Start your own business for future job security?

One thing most do is call the unemployment office and apply for benefits. What they don't realize is that their tax dollars not only have paid for unemployment benefits, but have also paid for job finding assistance through state and federal agencies.

For example, Governor Gregoire's office just announced \$27 million in economic recovery grants for Washington to provide training opportunities, financial assistance, and employment services to displaced workers.



Sue Ambler of Workforce Development in Snohomish.

employment assistance has been crafted to provide skill assessment, resume writing techniques, and aid in matching workers with jobs. There is also training for new skills for the underemployed, or for those who are seeking a complete career change. For those with entrepreneurial spirits who have spent their lives working for the other guy, there is even assistance for starting a business. These services are available for first time job seekers, those who have worked for most of their lives already, and everyone in between.

"One identity crisis Workforce Development has to overcome is the idea that we only serve the undereducated, those who speak English as a second language, or those looking to transition from public assistance. We certainly do have entry level

workers, but we also have registered nurses, engineers, machinists, mechanics, teachers, and so on," said Ambler.

In fact the Workforce Development Centers in Washington have the largest job bank in the state, through [www.gotoworksource.com](http://www.gotoworksource.com). There are job listings for workers at all types of skill levels, as well as a calendar of job fairs, and a place to post your resume.

It is no accident that their job bank is so large. The business services team at WDCSC are in touch with local employers, always researching what potential job openings exist now, and what is coming in the future. Listing with WDCSC is a good deal for local business, as they get a whole lot more than just a job posting.

"We look at what I call our inventory of job candidates, reviewing their skills, their abilities, and then we do the matching," said Ambler. "This means employers don't have to sort through hundreds of applications."

### Working together to predict the future

"In Snohomish county we have a group that has been meeting since 2003 to put together a blueprint forecasting workforce and economic development," said Ambler. She further explained it was the first time that K-12, the community colleges, the universities, economic development, workforce development, and other government agencies, sat down together at a table to research how the region would be economically vital in the near future. So what have they learned from this meeting of the minds?

"The economic drivers we looked at would indicate that biotech, nano-tech, and electronics are areas with real potential for growth," said Ambler. "Health care is obvious because of our increasing senior population. Also business services, which includes IT, HR, accounting and so on will

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Share energy conservation tips at [www.snopud.com](http://www.snopud.com).

<p><b>South Snohomish County Chamber of Commerce</b></p> <p><b>Where Business Connects</b></p> <p><b>May 13, 2009</b> 7:15-9:00am Embassy Suites, Lynnwood</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> \$35, \$30 for members prepaid by noon on May 7</p> <p><b>To register:</b> Visit <a href="http://www.s2c3.com">www.s2c3.com</a> Call 425.774.0507 x0 E-mail <a href="mailto:info@s2c3.com">info@s2c3.com</a></p>	<p><b>Planning for Marketing Success With a Proven Eight Step Program</b></p> <p>Make a positive difference in your bottom line at the Planning for Marketing Success breakfast seminar.</p>  <p>Renowned speaker and marketing specialist <b>Andrew Ballard, President of Marketing Solutions</b>, presents at an all inclusive breakfast seminar, providing valuable insight on how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a strategic path for marketing</li> <li>• Effectively position and promote your business</li> <li>• Generate an increase in sales revenue</li> <li>• Implement a proven eight step program to achieve overall marketing success</li> </ul> <p><b>institute</b> Hosted by the Northwest Business Institute, a division of the South Snohomish County Chamber of Commerce.</p>
<p><b>SCCIT</b> Hosts a Quarterly Breakfast Seminar:</p> <p><b>Multi-Modal Transportation in Snohomish County</b></p> <p>Learn first-hand about the issues that affect Snohomish County commuters. Featured presentations by local and regional transportation leaders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Joni Earl</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Sound Transit</li> <li>• <b>Joyce Eleanor</b>, CEO, Community Transit</li> <li>• <b>Bill Franz</b>, Director of Public Works, City of Lynnwood</li> <li>• Representative from Washington State Ferries</li> </ul> <p><b>May 19, 2009</b> 7:15-9:00am Lynnwood Embassy Suites</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> \$35, \$30 for members prepaid by May 13 \$25 for display table</p> <p><b>To register:</b> Visit <a href="http://www.s2c3.com">www.s2c3.com</a> Call 425.774.0507 x0 E-mail <a href="mailto:info@s2c3.com">info@s2c3.com</a></p>	<p><b>Good Morning, Snohomish County!</b></p> <p><b>Joint Networking Breakfast</b></p> <p>Join business leaders from Snohomish County and surrounding areas for the semi-annual joint networking breakfast.</p> <p><b>June 12, 2009</b> 7:15-9:00am</p> <p>Holiday Inn - Everett 3105 Pine Street Everett, WA 98201</p> <p><b>Sponsored in part by:</b> Affiliated Associations of America Zenic Cubed</p> <p><b>Cost:</b> \$28, \$23 for members prepaid by June 10 \$75 for member display table</p> <p><b>To register:</b> Visit <a href="http://www.s2c3.com">www.s2c3.com</a> Call 425.774.0507 x0 E-mail <a href="mailto:info@s2c3.com">info@s2c3.com</a></p>

To find out exactly how Washington state is administering the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act program visit [www.recovery.wa.gov](http://www.recovery.wa.gov).



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be strong.”

Ambler explained that recently the group developed a team assigned to look into the crystal ball and report back on where the jobs will be in the next 18 months, specifically because of the ARRA money. The point is to put people back to work immediately. Although she has not yet seen the final report she is certain that hospitality and tourism will be at the top of the list of opportunities. “After all we have the Olympics coming, next February just to the north of us,” said Ambler.

“Lets say the Olympic planners come up with 200 people they need,” she continued. “What we’re going to do is put 200 people through super host training, which wraps



If you are about to lose your job, or have just been laid off visit [www.helpforhardtimes.org](http://www.helpforhardtimes.org) for resource listings.

## 10 things to do if you lose your job

- Don't panic, but do get support. Seek out family and friends and let them know what has happened. Share your feelings before setting out to find a new job.
- Put things into perspective. Don't take what has happened to personally. Remember you will need your confidence when job searching.
- Take time to think about what you would really like to do. Look at the situation as an opportunity to embark on a new career or maybe even start your own business.
- Cut back expenses. Whether you start using coupons or the grocery store, or give up going to the coffee shop every morning, you will need to cut back to make funds last while you look for work.
- Get a new resume. And get help from a job search expert. Not only is the resume important, but the ways to distribute one may have changed from the last time you looked for work.
- Network. Network. Network. You won't find a job laying in bed. Get out there and mix and mingle. You never know where an opportunity may present itself.
- Remember to dress well. Being unemployed doesn't mean that you can leave in your sweatsuit. Dress for work, because finding a job is work.
- Keep motivated. Warn yourself that there will be a lot of setbacks and disappointments and try to learn from them. Stay positive for you know you will find a job sooner or later. In fact the fact that you are working so hard at finding a job should be worth a pat on the back.
- Consider school. With all the educational resources available currently for displace workers, you might consider upgrading your skill set.
- Find other streams of revenue while you look. If you have a talent that can land you a part time job to tide you over use it.

Above all, job placement experts agree that making a conscious and deliberate decision to find a new job is the first and sometimes biggest step you have to take. You are not on vacation!

up with a one day certificate. The next day we will train these 200 on writing a resume, interview techniques, and even though we know these won't be super high paying jobs — the fact is we will be able to find employment for 200 people with two days of training at a very low cost. We hope that some of them will stay with hospitality and tourism, and kind of bump on that.”

Ambler said another example of opportunity will be training in weatherization, as old building are modernized with ARRA dollars. A short term training with certification is all that will be required, so Ambler will work with the community colleges, to make sure the training is in place and available.

“This sort of training is perfect for many of our folks in residential construction who have no work because of the economic climate,” said Ambler. She is partnering with the Master Builders Association to identify this group and make sure they get the word that Workforce can help.

## Don't just sit there

“We look at long term jobs, permanent jobs, as opposed to temporary jobs,” said Ambler. “We are not the unemployment office. We are a career center.

“It's our job, to peel back the layers of experience our clients have and get them trained for the right job. You may not be that CEO for a awhile. You might have to do something else.

“The bright side is that you get to make some choices, that if you've been in a dead end job, or you just wanted to try something new, or just expand yourself — you have an opportunity.”

Workforce Development exists throughout the state of Washington. For Snohomish County go to [www.wdsc.org](http://www.wdsc.org). For King County visit [www.seekingwdc.org](http://www.seekingwdc.org). For the self-sufficiency calculator for the state go online to [www.seekingwdc.org](http://www.seekingwdc.org) and to find a list of job fairs visit [www.wa.gov/esd/calendar.htm](http://www.wa.gov/esd/calendar.htm). For links to social services go to [www.helpforhardtimes.org](http://www.helpforhardtimes.org).



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