



# Workforce and Talent Development Board

June 4, 2024

Tina Kotek, Governor

Vince Porter, Deputy Chief of Staff for Public Administration, Office of the Governor

Julie Fahey, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Oregon Legislature

Rob Wagner, Senate President, Oregon Legislature

Sandy Rowe, Chair, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Greg Hamann, Vice Chair, Higher Education Coordinating Commission

## Re: 2024 Oregon Talent Assessment and Talent Summit Attendee Priorities

Governor Kotek,

One of the many duties of the Workforce and Talent Development Board (WTDB) is to assist you, your policy advisors, the legislature, and state agencies through the creation and use of the two-year [WTDB Strategic Plan](#) as the guiding document for the entire Workforce Development System in Oregon. The WTDB's vision is Equitable Prosperity for all Oregonians, and our mission is to advance Oregon through meaningful work, training and education by empowering people and employers. To fulfill this mission, we:

- Lead and communicate the long-term vision for Oregon.
- Partner with workforce, education, and training entities
- Align public workforce policy, resources, and services with employers, and others.
- Identify barriers, provide solutions, and avoid duplication of services.
- Promote accountability among public workforce partners; and
- Share best practices and innovative solutions that are scalable and/or replicable.

In addition to the WTDB Strategic Plan, the WTDB and system partners have developed Five Joint Priorities that are intended to foster more focus in our efforts across the entire workforce system. These priorities are:

1. Concretely improve the connection between employers and the workforce system consistent with economic development priorities.
2. Improve workforce system impact by investing new and existing targeted resources that support work-based learning.
3. Advance equity by identifying and closing the largest gaps in participant access to education, training, and job placement services.
4. Complete necessary steps to align data in the WorkSource Oregon System to result in shared state and local performance reports/scorecards.
5. Concretely deepen the integration of K-12 education in the entire workforce system.

And, at the recent Oregon 2024 Talent Summit, we conducted an online ranking of the strategies and recommendations that were published in our just released [2024 Talent Assessment](#). The top five recommendations as ranked by attendees at the Talent Summit were:

1. Promote greater engagement and collaboration between K-12, higher education, other local workforce development partners, and industry.



# Workforce and Talent Development Board

2. Implement strategies to increase affordable housing supply, including incentives for developers, rent control measures, and investment in low-income housing projects.
3. Develop policies and initiatives to increase access to affordable childcare, including subsidies for low-income families and support for childcare providers to expand capacity.
4. Reinforce the WTDB as Oregon's centralized workforce authority that sets the vision, goals, and strategies for workforce development across the state and has the authority to hold multiple state, regional, and local level agencies accountable.
5. Advocate for policies to improve wages for childcare workers, including increasing public funding for childcare subsidies, employer-provided childcare incentives, and professional development programs.

These five recommendations have significant connectivity to the WTDB Strategic Plan and our Five Joint Priorities. We are excited as leaders in this space to engage with you more deeply in number four above particularly around the Talent Assessment and the recommendations highlighted in our [WTDB Continuous Improvement Committee's Governance Report](#).

The WTDB strongly supports the efforts of the Office of Workforce Investments that distribute services and funding to talent development partners across the state including local workforce development boards. The WTDB is also committed to doing everything we can to support the Higher Education Coordinating Commission in its efforts to foster and sustain high quality, rewarding pathways to opportunity and success for all Oregonians through an accessible, affordable, equitable and coordinated network for educational achievement beyond high school.

In turn, as business members of the WTDB, we want to underscore the importance of your continued support, advocacy, and partnership in this work. As leaders of Oregon's Workforce and Talent Development Board, we encourage you to seriously consider and take appropriate action on the policy recommendations listed above.

We are truly inspired by this work and driving hard to improve its delivery and impact for all of you and for all Oregonians! Your continued support of the work that the Workforce and Talent Development Board is responsible for as mandated in federal and state law is invaluable.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Anne Mersereau in black ink.

Anne Mersereau, Chair  
Workforce and Talent Development Board  
Vice President, HR, Diversity and Inclusion, PGE

Handwritten signature of Shari Dunn in black ink.

Shari Dunn, Vice Chair  
Workforce and Talent Development Board  
Owner, ITBOM

Handwritten signature of Ken Madden in blue ink.

Ken Madden, Immediate Past Chair  
Workforce and Talent Development Board  
Owner, Madden Industrial Craftsmen