Inspire Washington is a cooperative effort to connect students and job seekers to careers in their region.

*Provide a Pathway from Talent to Careers.*
Youth Employment

Teens and young adults have been hit the hardest by the “Great Recession”

Youth Unemployment

Young Adult Unemployment by Race in Washington

Source: U.S. Census Bureau’s 2011 and 2006 American Community Survey.
Brain Drain

Over 70,000 young people ages 15-24 in Spokane region...

but unless they see opportunities for themselves, may be leaving *with their skills and potential*

Need to ensure they are made aware of careers and retain them in our local workforce
According to the Harvard University report, *Pathways to Prosperity* (February, 2011):

“Work-linked learning should play an especially important role in the new American system of pathways to prosperity. There is mounting evidence that this would be an effective strategy for encouraging young adults to complete both high school and post-secondary degrees.”
Benefits of Work-based Learning

Participants in work-based learning activities:

• Show **improved academic achievement**

• **Realize the relevance of their education** and apply acquired knowledge in a meaningful way

• Have the **opportunity to explore career options** in greater depth

• **Increase self-confidence**

• **Acquire real workplace experience** and employability skills

• Are more likely to continue education/training

• **State Workforce Board** – worked to get recognition and support at the state level

• **Workforce Innovations Fund** – statewide application with Work-based Learning as key element - not funded

• **ASSET Bill** in 2013 Washington State Legislature – fate still unknown

• **InspireWA** – regional partnership with WIBs, Chambers of Commerce, School Districts, Community Colleges, One-Stop system
Career Cruising Features

• Career Matchmaker – interest assessment tool
• Explore careers by name, keyword, school subject, or cluster
• Occupation profile including:
  o Job description
  o Education & training
  o Earnings data
    (State Specific from BLS & LMEA)
  o Related occupations
  o Working conditions
  o Direct links to related college & university programs
  o Multimedia interviews
  o Sample career path
InspireWA added Features

Access to **LOCAL** work-based learning activities

- Career Coaching (Discussion board)
- Speakers Bureau
- Company Tours
- Mock Interviews
- Career Fairs
- Competition Judging
- Job Shadowing
- Internships
Benefits to Students

• **Comprehensive**, streamlined career search

• **Awareness of MANY companies**, not just few known by family, friends and advisors

• **Access** to Work-based Learning Activities without need to find on own

• **Profile is portable** for use in future career/job searches

• **Parents and non-school advisors can** view and **assist** with portfolio
Benefits to Schools

• **Easily connect** with volunteers and businesses willing to participate in career development

• **Business recruiting** efforts made by **entire community**

• **Work-based learning opportunities available** throughout Eastern Washington (& likely the rest of WA)

• **Safe platform** to engage students in career development

• **Reporting** by school and/or district
  – Student career interests
  – Utilization and completion progress
Benefits to Employers

• **Increase visibility** and highlight community involvement

• **Directly address skills gap** in future workforce

• **Promote careers available** and help students realize that there are many opportunities in the community

• **Nurture the future workforce** by connecting with them early in their career development

• **Direct connection to workforce and educators** communicating current business needs

• **Eliminates redundancy** of existing “system” – multiple points of contact & informal relationships
Benefits to Community

- Help build Washington into a workforce-strong and economically vibrant state
- Improve Washington’s drop-out, graduation & unemployment rates
- Increased collaboration between Business, Education, and Workforce
- Reduced redundancy in efforts
- More efficient pathway to careers
- Prevent “brain drain” – keep & return Washington talent in the state
Year One Progress

Focused on training of community partners

• 15 licenses - Skills Centers (K-12 CTE), high schools, Community Colleges, Next Generation Zone & One-stop, Chamber of Commerce
  – 1184 logins
  – 28,211 page views
Year Two

- **Work 101** - Partnership with regional Chamber/Economic Development Council to recruit businesses and add profiles and work-based learning activities to site

- Working with **STEM network** to target career opportunities in this sector and improve awareness and educational outcomes

- Expand infrastructure and create linkages to other areas and initiatives across the state
Questions?

Thank you!

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