



Region: Southwest

Contact Information: Vickei Hrdina, Regional Network Director vickei.hrdina@esd112.org
Chad Mullen, CCSW Network Manager, chad.mullen@esd112.org
Melanie Walker, Career Connected Learning Coordinator
melanie.walker@esd112.org

Regional Overview

Career Connect Southwest Regional Network serves the six County region across Southwest Washington. Our Network is made up of the 30 school districts in the ESD 112 territory, three higher education providers, our Economic Development councils, chambers of commerce, over 80 active employers and several other community-based organizations. Our K12 system includes close to 100,000 learners, more than 60% are considered rural by federal guidelines. Clark County is a driving force behind the greater Portland-Vancouver region's reputation as "Silicon Forest." With companies like Logitech, TSMC, Silicon Forest Electronics, SEH America and others calling Clark County home, computer and electronics is a strong legacy cluster for the county but also a growth opportunity as the world sees growing demand in clean technology, automation, especially in autonomous cars, and computer hardware needs. Cowlitz County is home to technology companies, manufacturing corporations, leaders in the natural resource industry, and other thriving businesses-with room for growth and new industry in our on-going development enhanced by our access to rail, port, and interstate shipping capabilities. The Gorge is primarily known as a recreation area, but with cross state partnerships like the Gorge Tech Alliance, the area is growing in the development of an innovation cluster among the gorge's uncrewed aerial system (UAS) and remote sensing companies. To align with our region's growth industries and top in-demand careers, we will prioritize partnership with Education, IT/Cybersecurity, Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace, Healthcare and Life Sciences.

Based on the 2023 Network RFP for CCW, ESD112 has approximately 11% of the students in Washington State. Based on this proportion of students in our region, the approximate share of growth to meet the statewide 2030 Goal for completing a Career Launch program before age 30 is:

- 2025: 2,123 students (+1,086)
- 2026: 2,376 students (+253)
- 2027: 2,706 students (+330)

Career Launch endorsed programs and current completions in our region are listed below:

- Total CL enrollees for 23-24 - is 1,037 students (reported by partners)

Regional Career Launch Endorsed Programs and Current Enrollments

Organization	Program	Spring '24 Enrollment (Completion if known)
Clark College	Semiconductors & Electronics	35
Clark College	Automotive-T-TEN & HiTECC	29
Clark College	Welding Tech	66
Clark College	Cybersecurity BAS	82
Clark College	Network Tech	73
Clark College	Surveying Tech	23
Clark College	Cuisine Management	20
Clark College	Professional Baking	27
Clark College	Engineering	222
Clark College	Early Childhood Education	106
ESD112	ESD-U	343 (198)
WSUV	Data Analytics	5
WSUV	Mechanical Engineering	6
Multiple	Registered Apprenticeship	13,477 per CCW Impact Tracker

Regional Expansion Priorities

Career Connect SW's system of partner engagement through our Advisory Board, Governance structure and various program-specific work groups, in addition to our stakeholder engagement survey revealed a regional priority to clarify and communicate current and future Launch programs (both RA and CL) and to localize the Sector Lead strategies and create regional action plans within the specific sectors mentioned above.

In order to meet the region's approximate share of student enrollments by June 2025, the region would need to enroll 1,086 additional students based on current Career Launch enrollments. From June 2025 - June 2027 to stay on track, another 583 students would need to enroll in and complete a CL program. For our region to achieve the targeted additional enrollments, new CL programs will need to be identified. The year one target for growth does not currently seem attainable by June 2025. Additional CL slots that are feasible and the communications and marketing strategy to support enrollment and completion by year is listed below.

Year 1 (24-25).

1. Support Lower Columbia College in adding 2 new Launch endorsements in 2025, increasing available enrollment slots by approximately 50 per program. The sectors currently identified for development are Welding and IT. Additionally Lower Columbia has a Paraeducator Apprenticeship program that should fit the definition of Launch and be counted towards our regional enrollment.[+100 slots]
2. Launch the SW WA Rural CTE Cooperative with 6 CTE courses and build each into a CTE Graduation pathway, approved by OSPI by the end of the year. The sectors identified for these new pathways are: Education (Paraeducators), Tech (IT, cyber and web development*), Healthcare (medical assisting* and home health care), Business (finance and entrepreneurship) and Manufacturing (construction/engineering*). This will add another 25 slots per K12 CL program.
3. Drawing from the 3 Apprenticeship Prep program pilots (noted as * above) in 2025, we will continue to grow and establish a cross-sector 'Community of Practice' for Registered Apprenticeships to inform the available slots, recruitment, enrollment, completion and reporting.
4. Convene a Career Launch and Registered Apprentice Student Forum with Clark and Lower Columbia Colleges, and our Apprenticeship Community of Practice to enhance regional awareness, increase enrollment and further expansion potential.
 - a. Share equity-focused Career Launch and RA enrollment and completion data from CCW Impact reports
 - b. Document strategies to close the enrollment and completion gap for students furthest from opportunity.
 - c. Incorporate student, employer and faculty voice to improve CL program design.
5. Convene a series of Business- Education Summits in partnership with statewide Sector Leads . These Summits invite sector-focused employers, all CTCs and WSUV in our region, WDCs, EDCs, K12 leaders (CTE, Admins, Guidance) together for structured conversations that result in
 - a. Collaboratively determined road map/action plan for the regional network designed to elevate awareness of Career Launch opportunities and new employer-focused program development.

- b. Targeting Healthcare, Education, IT/Tech and Construction first (Life Sciences if time, capacity and sector interest is developed)

Year 1 new Launch slots created = 125; maximum threshold enrollment based on current and year 1 projections would be n= 1,991

Year 2 (2025-26)

- Add new CTE Cooperative courses as funding is available to build out the other sector priorities such as Life Sciences, Clean Tech, Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Align K12 CTE Graduation Pathways with existing and new endorsed Career Launch programs in the ESD112 region; secure dual credit articulations and paid WBL to support the endorsement of 6 new Career Launch programs that begin in K12 through the Rural CTE Cooperative, creating 300 new Launch slots.
- Based on the outcomes of the Apprenticeship Prep Pilot, build upon any successes and develop a pilot in animal health sciences (discussion in progress currently)
- Work with Clark, LCC and WSUV to identify new programs for Launch endorsement in Healthcare, Life Sciences, Business and Marketing and additional Launch pathways in Advanced Manufacturing adding up to 200 new Career Launch slots.
- Continue convening the Business-Education Summits for 2-3 additional sectors. Maintain a 'light-touch' convening for prior sectors annually. Support network partners in developing programs and regional solutions that grow out of the Biz-Ed Summits
- Redesign Network Communications plan to integrate localized sector lead action plans, labor data and educator and student-facing services to be co-branded with CCW (website, social media, you tube, etc.)

Year 2 new Launch slots created = 500; maximum threshold enrollment based on current and year 1 projections would be n= 2,491 (and if all filled, meets our region's proportion).

Year 3 (2026-27)

- Provided that reliable system funding and technical assistance remains in place, the 3rd year of our expansion plan would include...
- Build out the Rural CTE Courses in other sectors as there is interest and capacity, aligning these with existing RA and CL.
- Continue supporting IHE's and expand employer-based Launch options
- With a target number of new slots created of 400 to reach out region's proportional goal.

Our complete Advisory Structure is available on our website, and our Governance Board has been the main contributor to setting local priorities. The main contributors to our expansion plan have been:

Clark College - Dr Karin Edwards, President and Rhianna Johnson, Director of Guided Pathways

WSUV - Mel Netzhammer, Chancellor and Narek Danielyan, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships

Lower Columbia College - Matt Siemearns, President and Tamra Gilchrist, Dean of WPT Apprenticeships - Mike Bridges, IBEW

Skilled Trades/Construction - Sherrie Jones, SW constructors Association

Advanced Manufacturing/Aero - Jay Schmidt, President of Silicon Forest Electronics and Chair of the High Tech Council

Economic Development - Jen Baker, CEO of the Columbia River Economic Development Council and Jason Hartmann, Gorge Tech Alliance

Approach to Expanding Regional Career Connected Learning

Another priority that surfaced from our partner engagement in 23-24 was to elevate career exploration (particularly in K-8, early and often) and increased integration and articulation of CBO and higher ed support for Explore and Prep.

To address these two opportunities for pathway development, the network will:

1. Continue to support K12 partners in developing Explore programs with clear, concise examples and ways to build pathways:
 - a. Strengthen and expand after school CCL targeted at girls and rural communities by investing in scaling nPower Girls to 10 districts in 24-25; with the ultimate five-year goal of having a program in every district.
 - b. Provide direct technical assistance to K12 district to develop 'Lessons from Luisa'- type road maps that are tailored for their district system and aligned to their district strategic plan. In 24-25 we will partner with Kelso Schools as a pilot and revise this support over time to ensure all districts have developed an internal system for supporting Explore and Prep programs throughout K12.
2. Provide support (technical and financial) to K12 CCL events and experiences that align with CCW framework and priorities, especially those that connect to an existing CLE program.
 - a. Exploring summer on-campus experiences with our Higher Ed partners as part of our Horizons advising partnership and scale successful programs
 - b. Leverage other ESD112 program teams to amplify the outreach and education around CCL continuum to students, parents and community partners through the newly created College and Career Readiness Advisors and Youth Employment Services team to target BIPOC, rural and youth with disabilities.
3. Asset map Program Builders in the formal CCW system as well as informal local program providers in Explore and Prep and revise our Advisory to include more stakeholders in the region.
 - a. Articulate clear pathways that exist in and out of the formal K12 system for exploration (i.e. Share and scale the success of the WSU 4 H Model in Wahkiakum County with districts that also have a focus on Tech or Manufacturing)
 - b. Examine gaps in program providers by sector or region and target recruitment for either CCSW funding or program builder funding.

Key Milestones

Near Term (by June 2025)

1. Lower Columbia College achieves successful completion of Career Launch Endorsements by the start of 2025 will allow for enrollment to begin by June.
2. Convene Apprenticeship Partners that results in development and submission of 1-3 applications to WSATC for Apprenticeship Prep Program(s) supporting students in rural communities in preparing for and connecting to high-wage careers.

Long Term (through June 2027)

1. Secure dual credit articulations for all Rural CTE graduation pathways (career prep).
2. Identify employers and structure paid work-based learning for students in the Rural CTE program.
3. Expand regional partnerships to in-demand sectors that have not been engaged in Launch conversations - such as Clean Tech and Natural Resources.