



# Oregon's Certified Work Ready Communities

The following information is presented by the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development to describe Certified Work Ready Communities and its impact on Oregonians.

## Oregon Certified Work Ready Communities

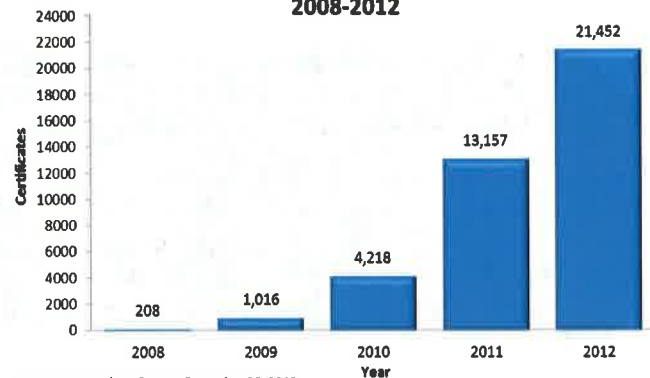
The Certified Work Ready Communities (CWRC) initiative is an economic development tool to enhance Oregon's workforce for job opportunities in both today and tomorrow's industries. Oregon is among the first states to launch a Certified Work Ready Communities initiative to build and document the work readiness and problem solving skills of its citizens.

The initiative means that local businesses can count on finding workers with strong foundational skills in order to thrive and prosper. Communities working together to reach certification goals are at the heart of this effort. The initiative better connects Oregon's education, workforce, and economic development strategies to ultimately create jobs, make businesses more competitive, and attract new businesses to the state.

The Certified Work Ready Communities initiative builds on Oregon's National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). The NCRC is a portable, industry-recognized credential which verifies "work readiness".

To earn the certificate, individuals are assessed on three foundational workplace skills (applied mathematics, reading for information, and locating information) which have been found to be highly important to the majority of jobs in the workplace.

**Total NCRCs Earned in Oregon  
2008-2012**



Source: ACT Registrar Report, December 20, 2012

Over 21,000 Oregonians have received an NCRC. Over 900 businesses have signed up to use the program in their hiring process.

The following business associations support this initiative:

- Oregon Business Association
- Oregon Business Council
- Oregon Business Plan
- Associated Oregon Industries
- Manufacturing 21 Coalition
- Portland Business Alliance
- Energy Consortium of Oregon & Southwest Washington
- National Association of Manufacturers

"Workforce is the number one deciding factor in [company site] selection. As a rule, 60% of the decision-making is placed on workforce quality and availability. In the past, it took a huge effort to prove our region has the employees they need. Today, with the NCRC, it's a different story. We can use the growing local pool of certificate holders to demonstrate our region's high-quality workforce."

Jon Stark, Manager  
Redmond Economic Development, Inc.