



OREGON WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP

March 14, 2025

HEATHER DESART
OWP Chair
Northwest Oregon Works

Chair Reynolds, Vice Chair Anderson, and members of the committee,

ERIN CARPENTER
OWP Treasurer
Eastern Oregon Workforce Board

My name is Georgia Conrad and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon Workforce Partnership. OWP is the statewide association of Oregon's nine workforce boards. OWP focuses on workforce advocacy, collaboration, and innovation. We do this through meaningful state and national partnerships, and statewide initiatives that support Oregon Businesses and Job Seekers to enable a thriving economy.

BRIDGET DAZEY
Clackamas Workforce Partnership

ASHLEY ESPINOZA
Lane Workforce Partnership

Behavioral Health pathways are in demand. All nine private sector-led boards identified Healthcare as a key industry employing people in their communities. Each board convenes employer-led consortiums in the healthcare sector which include education and training partners. Of these nine boards, three specifically call out and have active initiatives that support behavioral health pathways. These boards are East Cascades Works, Northwest Oregon Works, and Willamette Workforce Partnership which accounts for 19 of Oregon's 36 counties or 52%.

HEATHER FICHT
East Cascade Works

ANDREW MCGOUGH
Work Systems Inc

KIM PARKER-LLERENAS
Willamette Workforce Partnership

HEATHER STAFFORD
OWP Vice-Chair
Rogue Workforce Partnership

Each of these local workforce boards has spent the past 3-6 years developing these programs to address the training gap in behavioral health pathways and better prepare our emergent behavioral health workforce. These partnerships range in focus from entry-level to advanced degree holders in the behavioral health field. We welcome the opportunity to amplify the work we have already done for Behavioral Health pathways through the support of Senate Bill 527.

SARA STEPHENS
Southwestern Oregon
Workforce Investment Board

Sincerely,

Georgia Conrad
Executive Director

11575 SW PACIFIC HWY #2135
TIGARD, OR 97223

info@oregonworkforcepartnership.org
oregonworkforcepartnership.org