



THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP



WASHINGTON
ROUNDTABLE

Washington Roundtable, Boston Consulting Group issue report: Great Jobs Within Our Reach

Washington state would gain 160,000 jobs, spread across many sectors of its economy, if it fills its job skills gap; generating \$720 million in new state tax revenues annually

SEATTLE – March 27, 2013 – Washington state business and community leaders respond to new report:

“We know there are great STEM jobs available in our state right now and more are coming. It’s crucial that we give our students rigorous and inspiring preparation in STEM so they can succeed in Washington and the competitive global marketplace.” **Dean Allen, CEO, McKinstry**

“This study is compelling because it not only defines the challenges we face as a state, it also provides solutions that are actionable today. The solutions outlined in this study of Washington’s skills demonstrate how different Washington’s economy is today than it was 20 years ago. Our economy is increasingly dependent on the skills of its workforce.”

Barbara Hulit, senior vice president, Danaher Business Systems

“Great jobs with great salaries are already here and more are coming if we nurture and attract the talent needed to fill them. Bridging the skills gap is the best opportunity we have to build Washington’s economy.” **Steve Singh, chairman and CEO, Concur Technologies**

“This report documents more thoroughly than ever before the large magnitude of the acute skills gap in Washington state. New steps to address the skills shortage represent our single biggest opportunity as a state to add jobs, grow the economy, and generate additional revenue for state government.” **Brad Smith, executive vice president, Legal & Corporate Affairs, Microsoft**

“This study has implications for STEM education and how resources should be allocated to our schools, colleges, universities and training providers. It’s crucial that we best prepare Washington’s students to succeed in a global, 21st century job market.” **Paul T. Francis, interim executive director, Council of Presidents**

“The STEM pipeline is critical to the future of our state and the success of our workforce in the modern economy. We must do more to improve STEM education and its alignment with our workforce needs.” **Don Brunell, president, Association of Washington Business**

“This report shines an even brighter light on the economic imperative to improve science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education across Washington state. Ensuring every young person is prepared with strong STEM skills, and is then inspired to apply them, is the most important thing we can do to grow the economy and support the next generation of Washingtonians to lead lives of opportunity and success.” **Patrick D’Amelio, CEO, Washington STEM**

“Acting now to close Washington’s skills gap is the highest leverage opportunity we have to strengthen our economy. We can’t wait to prepare our students for the skills they’ll need to succeed after high school. This report highlights how we should better allocate our resources to K-12 and postsecondary institutions to provide a greater focus on STEM education.” **Susan Sigl, CEO, Washington Technology Industry Association**

“By 2018, nearly 70 percent of the jobs in this state will require college or some level of postsecondary education. The Roundtable’s study shows just how big the skills gap is here. We want Washington students and employees to qualify for these high-skill jobs that require significant levels of math and science skills coming out of both K-12 and postsecondary institutions. This should be a wakeup call to all of us that we need improve our education system(s) and to ensure Washington students leave high school ready for college, work and life.” **Jana Carlisle, executive director, Partnership for Learning**

“Our state thrives on innovation, both from our citizens and companies. We must build a highly, technically skilled workforce that meets the demands of the 21st century job market, and work to develop talent within our state.” **Chris Rivera, president, Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association**