



**Promoting American Competitiveness:
Filling Jobs Today and Training Workers for Tomorrow**

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Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee, my name is Lee Lambert, President of Shoreline Community College. Thank you for the opportunity to address this topic that is so important to our citizens and their ability to compete in an increasingly globalized economy.

Community colleges are in a unique position to connect the needs of business and industry with the men and women who come to us for employable skills. Shoreline Community College has been at the forefront of implementing the Manufacturing Skills Certification System endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturers. Today, we're leading the way to implement the Right Skills Now program recently touted by President Obama. Our campus is also one of two national innovation centers connected to National Coalition of Certification Centers.

Our success is built on partnerships. Let me illustrate how we do this:

I'll start with the Professional Automotive Training Center because it is the blueprint for all our efforts. The Center is the premier automotive technician program in the U.S. That's not our marketing slogan; it is something our partners tell us.

The Center addresses the needs of students, the state, auto manufacturers, industry suppliers and auto dealers. We train technicians for dealers selling new GM, Chrysler, Honda and Toyota vehicles. The Puget Sound Auto Dealers Association is on our campus. Other manufacturers and suppliers send about 10,000 incumbent workers a year to the Center for skills-upgrade training.

We also reach out to the K-12 system. Through the national Automotive Youth Educational System, we connect with students in high-school automotive programs. We also bring high-school automotive

program instructors from across the Pacific Northwest to the Center every summer to train on the latest technology.

Every student in the factory-sponsored programs is also placed with a local automobile dealer. Students cycle between college and the workplace, immediately practicing what they've just learned. Many graduate with a two-year Applied Associate in Arts and Sciences degree along with manufacturer-specific training certificates.

And these students are getting jobs, good jobs, with a placement rate of virtually 100 percent.

How did we do all this?

We ask each of our partners what we can do for them, not what they can do for us.

We are using the same approach with the aerospace industry.

Our campus is just 15 miles from Boeing's Everett plant, home of the production lines for 747, -67, -77 and -87 airplanes. The aerospace industry is facing serious workforce challenges. So we met with Boeing and some of the 600 or so supplier firms in the state to ask what they need.

Our CNC machining program trains students to use \$100,000, computer-controlled machines the size of a room to produce the precision parts needed to build airplanes. We listened to industry and responded. Our lead instructor designed a short-term, aerospace-specific course. That course is now adopted by 10 other colleges to help students get jobs and help industry get trained workers.

These two programs share a number of important traits.

Both use industry-based curriculum. We teach what the industry needs an employee to know. In some cases, the curriculum comes directly from industry.

Both use third-party assessments. Of course, our students get grades, degrees and certificates from the college. But, they also receive industry-endorsed certifications that show they have the knowledge, skills and abilities to do the job.

Both use I-BEST, or Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training. Washington community colleges invented this nationally recognized program which adds another instructor to the classroom to help students with English language or math. Shoreline is the largest I-BEST provider in the state.

Both use the Career Navigator program. This is a partnership with the Aspen Institute, the Seattle-King County Workforce Development Council and Pacific Associates. The career navigator matches students with employers to ensure both get what they need. The program is getting phenomenal results with virtually every student finding a family-wage job in our region.

We've found a model that works, putting people in jobs that industry needs filled. Now we're working to apply in other areas just as fast as we can.

Thank you for your time.