

## **650 High School Students from 5 Counties head to Elma to Try-a-Trade**

### **Local News**

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ELMA, Wash. - The Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) will hold its 5th Annual Try-A-Trade this Thursday May 2nd, 9am &ndash; 1pm, at the Satsop Business Park in Elma. The event will host 650 high school students from 24 schools within the Thurston, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, and Pacific Counties. This will be by far the largest Try-A-Trade event held by RETC. The hands on event will have 15 exhibitors from different trades participating. Students will be given the opportunity to operate crane simulators, and strap in for a ride on a 60- foot utility boom truck, among other things. Try-A-Trade is part of an effort to inform students about the variety of career pathways following high school graduation. The Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) is also sponsoring workshop for high school counselors to learn about apprenticeship pathways for their students and how these experiences can transfer directly to a college degree from Washington&rsquo;s 34 state colleges. Each year, the RETC aims to hold the event at no cost to the student and to provide bus scholarship support to schools who could not afford to attend otherwise. &ldquo;To run this event and support our schools, the RETC works to raise over \$15,000 for student lunches, safety equipment, and bus scholarships,&rdquo; said Ryan Davis, Executive Director of RETC, &ldquo;This event could not have been possible without great community support from sponsors and industry volunteers who invest their time to share knowledge and expertise with America&rsquo;s next generation of workforce laborers.&rdquo;

A special thank you to our event supporters for making this event possible: Thurston/Mason/Lewis Central Labor Council, Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council, Grays Harbor Community Foundation, Washington State Labor Council, Construction Center of Excellence, Rotary Club of Chehalis, Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy, Northwest Laborers Training Trust, Incremental Systems, Olympic College, Twin Harbors Labor Council, City Picnics, Operating Engineers, the Home Depot, Port of Grays Harbor, Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing, Construction Center of Excellence, Brown Minneapolis Tank, Olympia Building & Construction Trades Council, Washington Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Team, and Washington State Building & Construction Trades Council. **?About the Regional Education and Training Center**The RETC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the improvement of the Workforce in the Pacific Mountain Region and beyond. The RETC works with private industry, educational institutions, government agencies, labor partners, and other community organizations to provide training opportunities at our Satsop Campus and through online learning opportunities. Additionally, RETC focuses on K-12 outreach to help inspire and educate students about careers in the energy sector and the trades. [www.retcs.org](http://www.retcs.org)