



***Bridging Borders, Building Careers: A Pacific Northwest
Union Workforce Agenda***

August 13th, 2026, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Portland, Oregon

(agenda as of 7/29, subject to minor changes)

7:30 - 8:30 am - Registration & Continental Breakfast

8:30 am

Opening Comments

Cherika Carter, Secretary-Treasurer, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Keynote Speaker

Shana Peschek, Director, Training and Apprenticeships, IAM Union

**Panel: Landscape for Registered Apprenticeship Programs - Successes,
Opportunities & Challenges**

Raymond Dumas, Cement Masons Local 528

Racheal Geyer, Roofers Local 153

Alysia Richter, IBEW Local 932

National Updates: Working for America Institute, AFL-CIO

Sylvia Dietert, Program Manager, Working for America Institute, AFL-CIO

Artificial Intelligence (AI) & the Labor Market

Mark Brenner, Co-Director, Oregon Labor & Education Research Center

**Panel: Making Care Central to Workforce Development - Labor Solutions to
Address Mental Health and Child Care Crises**

Hayley Coupe, United We Heal (AFSCME affiliated)

Diana Winther, IBEW Local 48

Natasha Benitez, Provider Services Fund (AFSCME affiliated)

Ryan Davis, Machinists Institute (IAM affiliated)

Nathe Lawver, Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 Apprenticeship Tour & Lunch

12:30 pm

Cross-Regional Tabletop Discussions

Panel: Leveraging Collective Bargaining to Develop Sustainable Labor-Management Training

Leigh Christopherson, SEIU Healthcare 1199NW Training Fund

Amy Persell, Pacific Northwest Hospitality Training Program (UNITE HERE affiliated)

Ron Rodgers, United Steel Workers District 3

Why Labor Fought for Better Jobs Data – and What it Means for Workers

Chelsea Mason-Placek, WA State Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Panel: Labor's Influence as Workforce Development & Community College Board Members

Andrew Friedman, United We Heal / Oregon Workforce & Talent Development Board

Dustin Hysmith, Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 / Workforce Southwest Washington Board

Tina Morrison, Spokane Regional Labor Council, AFL-CIO / Spokane Workforce Development Council

Alice Phillips, Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO / Clover Park Technical College Board of Trustees

Eric Sherman, IBEW Local 932 / Northwest Oregon Works Board

Workforce Development Support from the Oregon & Washington AFL-CIO

Oregon Labor Federation, AFL-CIO: Josh Hall

Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO: Shondea Chapman, Emmanuel Flores, Chelsea Mason-Placek, Michael Pichler

3:00 p.m.

Closing Comments

Graham Trainor, President, Oregon Labor Federation, AFL-CIO