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Reardon: Workforce training center creates positive step

On Friday, Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and other community leaders will open the WorkSource Aerospace Center, funded through federal recovery dollars to help displaced aerospace workers find new jobs.

The center, located at and operated by Edmonds Community College and Workforce Development Council Snohomish County, will offer opportunities for former aerospace workers to retrain for other work within the industry.

“We’re working to protect aerospace jobs in Snohomish County, but recent industry layoffs mean out-of-work employees who need a helping hand,” Reardon said. “This center offers my hard-working constituents the opportunity they deserve to find new work.”

The importance of keeping a healthy aerospace industry in Snohomish County and Washington state has never been more clear, Reardon said.

“More than 120,000 jobs in Snohomish County are dependent upon Boeing,” Reardon said. “That’s more than the entire population of Everett, where the plant is located.”

Aerospace and manufacturing jobs are a key component of Snohomish County’s job base. Education and workforce development must be improved in order to keep companies such as Boeing from leaving for other states.

“This aerospace center is a positive step, but more work at the state level is needed to ensure an adequate workforce in the future,” Reardon said. “Workforce training is a key component of maintaining this state’s competitiveness.”

Since Reardon’s first term in the state Legislature in 1998, he has made significant efforts to create workforce training opportunities in Washington. Reardon was author of the 2000 workforce training act, which ensured that dislocated aerospace workers received training to find a new occupation and re-enter the workforce.

The aerospace center is located at 7020 196th Street in Lynnwood. The opening will be at 10 a.m.

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