July 31, 2018

To: WSMTC Executive Council

From: WSMTC Strategic Planning Committee

Subject: 2018-2019 WSMTC Goal Recommendations

**Summary**

We recommend that the WSMTC Executive Council endorse the following strategies to pursue during 2018-2019:

1. Support and enhance military spouse employment and other professional development.
2. Support and enhance portability of licenses, certificates, and other credentials for veterans and military families.

We also recommend convening “Communities of Practice” around other six select topics:

1. **WorkSource JBLM:** Partner organizations operating at WorkSource JBLM.
2. **Employment Services:** Partners that provide employment services (particularly partners that don’t provide direct services at WorkSource JBLM).
3. **National Guard / Reserves:** Partners that provide employment services to National Guard members and Reservists.
4. **Apprenticeship / Career Connected Learning:** Partners that support and provide apprenticeships and other career connected learning.
5. **Higher Education:** Partners that provide higher education degrees and related services.
6. **Entrepreneurship:** Partners that provide entrepreneurship instruction and related services.

**Implementation**

Goal Workgroups

WDVA staff will solicit and convene WSMTC partner organizations to participate in strategy workgroups. Workgroups will develop and implement specific action items, and report back on progress to the Executive Council at their mid-year meeting.

Communities of Practice (CAPs)

CAPs will operate similarly to the ‘Track Groups’ we convened in previous years. The purpose of the CAPs will be to keep partner organizations engaged, provide an opportunity to network, and surface any new ideas/issues to the WSMTC. CAPs will be convened at least twice over the next year between Executive Council meetings

**Background:**

Beginning in 2013. WSMTC partners organized collective work around the four tracks in the VOW Act. Tracks included employment, higher education, career and technical training, and entrepreneurship. Partners involved in each track self-selected strategies, and reported activities and outcomes to the Executive Council during quarterly meetings.

In 2017, Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA) staff met with partners in each track to discuss and select strategic priorities. Recommendations were distilled by the WSMTC Strategic Planning Committee and presented to the Executive Council, which then selected three strategies around which to focus partner’s collective work. WDVA staff subsequently convened and worked with partners between 2017 and 2018 to develop and implement related action items. The original track groups did not meet over the course of the year, which left several partners disengaged from WSMTC activities.

In July 2018, WDVA staff again solicited partner organization input on WSMTC strategies. Partners were presented with eight potential goals, with the opportunity to propose additional options. No additional strategies were proposed. Partners were asked to select their top three strategies, and rank each option on a five point scale. 48 partners responded as follows:

1. **Develop and expand WorkSource JBLM services.**   
   (44% support / 4.5 average rating)
2. **Support and enhance military spouse employment and other professional development.**(70% support / 4.7 average rating)
3. **Support and enhance employment services for Reservists and National Guard members.**(30% support / 4.5 average rating)
4. **Support and enhance portability of licenses, certificates, and other credentials for veterans and military families.** (57% support / 4.5 average rating)
5. **Develop resources for employers to evolve from 'veteran-friendly' to 'veteran-ready'.**(30% support / 4.2 average rating)
6. **Support and enhance apprenticeship opportunities and other career connected learning for veterans and military families.** (26% support / 4.5 average rating)
7. **Support and enhance access to higher education career advising for service members and military families.** (35% support / 4.0 average rating)
8. **Support and enhance entrepreneurship resources for veterans and military families.**(7% support / 4.0 average rating)

Partner input and WDVA staff recommendations were presented to the WSMTC Strategic Planning Committee, which selected the two goals concerning spouses and credential portability. A few committee members also supported a third goal on targeted support for Guard and Reservists. Recognizing the need to continue work on other topics and keep partners engaged, the committee agreed to endorse six communities of practice to promote ongoing networking, collaboration, and surfacing of new issues and ideas.