

Newhall promoted to SBDC associate director

Jessica Newhall has promoted to be associate director of the Clatsop Community College Small Business Development Center (SBDC), effective July 1.

Newhall joined the CCC SBDC team as a part-time advisor in Fall 2017, and served as the lead advisor since 2018. Jessica has advised hundreds of clients with one-on-one confidential advising in Clatsop County over the past three years.

She spearheaded a complete overhaul of the SBDC training webcasts for the business community since March when covid-19 hit, with record-breaking participation.

Newhall also oversees the Clatsop Community College SBDC Small Business Management program, a 10-month cohort model that is the Signature program of the SBDC within the State of Oregon.

She has over 20 years of business experience as a business owner, general manager and national sales manager in the events industry, locally, regionally and nationally. She also owned a local, successful consulting business; serves on the Board of the Seaside Chamber of Commerce; is past president of the Assistance League of Clatsop County; and is a regular contributor to Coast River Business Journal.

She received her B.S. in business administration from the University of Colorado.

WA, OR virus restrictions rated among most stringent

LONG BEACH — Washington state has among the nation's most restrictive protections against the spread of coronavirus and Oregon is more restrictive than most, according to an analysis by WalletHub, a financial services company.

Noting that some states are pausing economic reopening as coronavirus infections increase, the firm on July 7 compared the 50 states and the District of Columbia across 18 selected metrics to rate which have the fewest restrictions. See wallethub.com/edu/states-coronavirus-restrictions/73818. These factors include things like limits on large gatherings and requiring facemasks in public settings, with assigned numbers of points — more points equaling fewer restrictions.

With 19 points, California is ranked as most restrictive, while South Dakota is least, with 87 points. With 34.35 points, Washington is rated 9th most restrictive, while Oregon with 37.46 points is 16th most restrictive. Washington's virus protections stiffened considerably in the week leading up to the rankings in response to a growing infection rate. Oregon's slightly relaxed.

While the mix of different virus protections has changed over the course of the pandemic, WalletHub said Washington's relative level of restrictions on July 7 was nearly on par with May 19, about when infections were around their initial peak. Oregon has become significantly more restrictive since May 19.

A majority of jobs cannot be done offsite

75% of U.S. workers can't work exclusively from home during pandemic

Story by Jake Ellison
UW News

About three-quarters of U.S. workers, or 108 million people, are in jobs that cannot be done from home during a pandemic, putting these workers at increased risk of exposure to disease. This majority of workers are also at higher risk for other job disruptions such as layoffs, furloughs or hours reductions, a University of Washington study shows.

Such job disruptions can cause stress, anxiety and other mental health outcomes that could persist even as the U.S. reopens its economic and social life, said author Marissa Baker, an assistant professor in the UW Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences.

These workers also represent some of the lowest paid workers in the U.S. workforce, Baker emphasized.

The remaining 25% of U.S. workers, or 35.6 million people, are in jobs that can be done at home. These jobs are typically in highly-paid occupational sectors such as finance, administration, computer, engineering and technology. Even as the economy begins to reopen, these workers will continue to be better shielded from exposure to the virus, reduced hours, furloughs or joblessness and have an increased ability to care for a child at home — further growing the disparity between the top quarter of the workforce and the rest, the study found.

“The most privileged workers will have a job that can be done at home, reducing their risk of exposure, and enabling them to continue to work even as office buildings were closed. Unfortunately, only a quarter of the U.S. workforce falls into this category. The fact that these are some of the highest paid workers in the U.S. is no surprise,” Baker added.

In the study, published in the American Journal of Public Health, Baker examined 2018 Bureau of Labor Statistics data characterizing the importance of interacting with the public and the importance of using a computer at work to understand which workers could work from home during a pandemic event, and which workers would experience work disruptions due to covid-19.

Using these two characteristics of work and how important they are in different types of jobs, Baker's analysis determined four main groups of occupations:

Work that relies on the use of computers but not as much on interaction with the public — jobs in business and finance, software development, architecture, engineering and the sciences, for instance — made up 25% of the workforce or 35.6 million workers. These workers had a median income of nearly \$63,000.

Work that relies on both interaction with the public and computer use — such as positions in management, healthcare, policing and education,

most classified as essential during the pandemic — comprised 36.4% of the workforce or 52.7 million workers. These workers had a median income of roughly \$57,000.

‘The workers for whom computer use is not important at work, but interactions with the public is, are some of the lowest paid workers. And during this pandemic, they face compounding risks of exposure to covid-19, job loss and adverse mental health outcomes associated with job loss.’

Marissa Baker

UW assistant professor

Jobs in which interaction with the public and computer use are not important — construction,

maintenance, production, farming or forestry — are 20.1% of the workforce or 29 million workers who make a median wage of \$40,000.

Lastly, jobs in which computer work is not important but interacting with the public is — retail, food and beauty services, protective services and delivery of goods — were 18.9% of the workforce, or 27.4 million workers, with a median income of \$32,000.

“The workers for whom computer use is not important at work, but interactions with the public is, are some of the lowest paid workers,” Baker said. “And during this pandemic, they face compounding risks of exposure to covid-19, job loss and adverse mental health outcomes associated with job loss.”

As the economy reopens, some workers who have been unable to work at home but did continue to go to work during the pandemic — such as some healthcare workers, security guards or bus drivers — may now face layoffs as organizations adjust to reduced demand and economic pressures force layoffs, Baker explains. On the upside, workers in construction, manufacturing, production or freight transport who may have been laid off or furloughed during the pandemic will likely be some of the first industries to rebound and hire workers back.

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