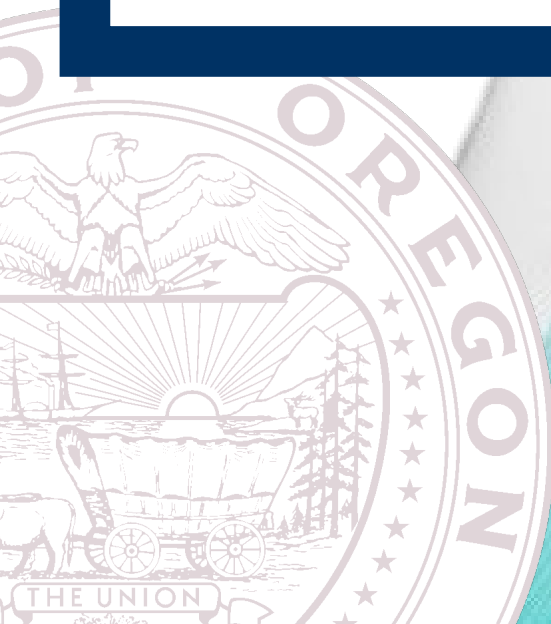


Trade Adjustment Assistance (Trade Act) program



**2022
Success Stories**



Oregon Employment Department

Our vision

An Oregon where meaningful work enables the state's diverse people and businesses to realize their full potential, creating prosperity in every community.

Our mission

Support Business – Promote Employment

- Support economic stability for Oregonians and communities during times of unemployment through the payment of unemployment benefits.
- Serve businesses by recruiting and referring the best-qualified applicants to jobs, and provide resources to diverse job seekers in support of their employment needs.
- Develop and distribute quality workforce and economic information to promote informed decision-making.
- Help Oregon employers and workers maintain quality of life, economic stability, and peace of mind by providing accessible paid family and medical leave insurance benefits.

Trade Act program

The federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, established under the [Trade Adjustment Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2015 \(Trade Act\)](#), provides benefits and services to eligible U.S. workers whose jobs have been negatively affected by foreign trade.

Across the nation, both rural and urban communities are built around specific industries. When foreign competition affects these industries, it's not just the individuals, but also entire communities, that feel the effects. In Oregon and elsewhere, this federal program helps people who have lost jobs due to foreign competition, such as when manufacturing plants closed after companies have moved operations overseas. The program provides these laid-off workers opportunities to get the skills, credentials, resources, and support needed to navigate new, long-term careers.

A message from the TAA program manager



Shelly Forsberg
TAA Program Manager

It is with extreme pleasure that we share these success stories from Oregon's Trade Adjustment Assistance program. I would like to congratulate all Oregon Employment Department employees, AFLCIO and other Workforce partnerships for their assistance in serving customers affected by foreign competition as well as Oregon's underserved communities, despite the many challenges faced during the pandemic. Their level of professionalism and dedication has helped us reach our customers all across the state of Oregon.

Our customer's results have been impressive and their successes are shared by everyone who took the time to lean in, listen and be a part of building a life-changing plan for each individual customer based on their unique desires and needs.

Additionally, I would like to thank the former governor, Kate Brown for service approval during the pandemic, Senator Ron Wyden, Representative Earl Blumenauer and both the Regional and National offices of the Department of Labor staff who have supported Oregon in pilots, education and guidance over the years.

These success stories for our customers are all of our success stories.

Thank you for all you do and continue to do for this amazing program and the wonderful people we serve in Oregon.

Shelly Forsberg

TAA Program Manger
State of Oregon, Central Trade Act Unit

Contact the Central Trade Act Unit

We are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Central Trade Act Unit

Oregon Employment Department
875 Union St. NE, #084
Salem, OR 97311

Phone: 503-947-3096
Toll Free: 877-639-7700 (TTY: 711)
Fax: 503-947-1676
Fax Toll Free: 855-851-0168

[Website:](https://unemployment.oregon.gov/trade-act) unemployment.oregon.gov/trade-act

[Email:](mailto:taacentral@employ.oregon.gov) taacentral@employ.oregon.gov

2022 Oregon Success Stories

Congratulations to our most recent Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program champions. Their accomplishments give hope to others. We are featuring their stories on our website’s “Success Stories” section and in our Annual Report to Congress. Here is a sample of some of our 2022 successes!*

**The names of trade-affected employers and state employees were removed to maintain confidentiality.*

Anthony Jaskiewicz

“After 14 years as a lead supervisor, jobs were outsourced to India and my employer closed the doors. This closure was devastating to our small town. With 300 people looking for work, I was unemployed for over a year.

It is difficult to describe the terror and shame I felt from being unemployed for so long; feeling like I might never find work again. My pain and guilt also had an impact on my relationship with my wife and young son. I didn’t feel worthy of them since I could not provide any support for our family.

When the Trade Act petition was certified, it was life changing. I was successful in school, making the honor roll, the Dean’s List, or the President’s List each term — despite the fact I had not attended school in over 30 years. With my approaching graduation, I updated my resume and began my work search. I was able to line up a job that started the same day I was awarded my AAS in computer engineering technology.

I cannot tell you how much this program helped me, and basically saved my life. A number of my co-workers were attending our local community college while I was there. The ones I have spoken with have also found employment. Thank you for all you have done for us and for the impact it has had on our small, rural town.”

“I cannot tell you how much this program helped me, and basically saved my life.”

Anthony Jaskiewicz



Laura Lafarge

“My name is Laura, and I worked at the same company for five years until 2019. I loved it there and was planning to retire there until they laid me off due to outsourcing. I was heartbroken. Who would hire a woman in her 60s? I don’t do well in interviews, and I would compete with younger generations who are all incredibly more computer literate than I am. I was terrified and unsure of what I would do. The Trade Act program turned out to be a blessing in disguise. I was able to return to school and improve my education. Thanks to the Trade Act program, I am now a college graduate. With everything I learned in school, I am now more confident in my ability to find work and succeed in it.”

“Thanks to the Trade Act program, I am now a college graduate. ...
I am now more confident in my ability to find work and succeed.”

Laura Lafarge



Kimball Slone

“My Name is Kimball Slone. I am a Trade Act program participant. I lost my job in May of 2020 where I was a forklift driver. I was worried. I lost my job, the COVID pandemic shutdown had just occurred, and I didn’t know if I could find a job to support my family. I live in a small town in a rural area, and there are not a lot of choices. I had been with the company for over 30 years, and I did not want to start at the bottom again.

My friend who worked with me told me about Trade Act, and about how the program was paying for his CDL training. I went to a meeting about services for former employees. I applied for the Trade Act program, and within a week, I got calls from my case manager to schedule an appointment to talk, and from the Trade Act Navigator to help me with a work search. It did take a little while for me to figure out what I wanted to do, but soon I was on my way. TAA staff helped me update my iMatch profile and connected me with other career support services. The Trade Act navigator helped me with Zoom and completing my documents, and support services helped me get assistance to pay for the physical I was required to get to start CDL program.

My case managers helped get me connected to the TRA group when I had unemployment questions. Everyone did a great job helping me get in to the 160 Driving Academy in Eugene. My case managers were very helpful while I was in training. ... They were quick about answering my questions, and they made sure I was paid for the gas I used to drive to school. I got my CDL license a couple of days ago, and the group is still helping me.

The Trade Act program is great. I am glad I heard about it. I am looking at becoming a semi-truck driver. Because of Trade Act, I know I will.”

“The Trade Act program is great... I am looking at becoming a semi-truck driver. Because of Trade Act, I know I will.”

Kimball Slone



Dr. Marianne Hallock Walker

“Thank you for the opportunity to further my education. It had been a dream of mine for many years to eventually retire, get an advanced degree, and then teach at a university. I had worked at my company for over 18 years, and I hoped to retire with them as well. When I was laid off, I figured that I would never be able to fulfil the dream of completing my doctorate, as I would be desperate trying to make up lost income by switching careers and trying to provide for my family.

Then, a Trade Act representative reached out to my old employer. Soon, many of us were sitting in a room learning all about what the Trade Act program could do for us. I already had an MBA, but I thought there’s no way they could help me change careers to become a professor. After working with my caseworker, researching schools, and talking with my previous professors, I was able to find an accredited online school that could be completed within the timeframe and resources allocated.

With my paperwork done, and school on the horizon, I got a job as a secretary at a religious education facility and hunkered down into my studies. Through focus, hard work, and support from my caseworker, just 25 months later I was able to defend my thesis and graduate with a 4.0 (while setting a new school record).

Within weeks of graduation, a new department at my current organization is starting up. They want my help in developing online college curriculum, which pairs perfectly with my dream of teaching higher education and my thesis on helping employees who are reluctant to use technology. I have a bright future ahead. I’ll be able to provide for my family, and I don’t have to wait until retirement now to pursue what I love doing.



For those of you considering the daunting task of starting a degree, DO IT! You will not regret the chance to expand your mind and improve your quality of life. Education is something that will last a lifetime. The journey may seem hard, but have confidence, do your assignments early, ask for help, and you can also emerge a conqueror!”

“For those of you considering the daunting task of starting a degree, DO IT! You will not regret the chance to expand your mind and improve your quality of life.”

Dr. Marianne Hallock Walker



Kimberly Bachmeier

“My name is Kimberly Bachmeier, and I am proof the Trade Act training program works if you are dedicated and committed to your personal success. When I was laid off in December of 2019, I had no idea what I was going to do at 49 years old with no formal education. I knew the solid work history I had working for the same company for over 25 years was a positive for my resume, but I also knew I would be competing against younger and college educated job seekers who would work for far less money than I was willing to accept.

As luck would have it, around Christmas of 2019, I was notified I was eligible for the Trade Act program. With the help of my case manager, I was enrolled to start my first year at PCC by March of 2020 and chose the field of accounting to earn an associate degree of science - AAS. I couldn't have made a better choice to start this next chapter of my life in a career that has endless possibilities. Little did I know that COVID-19 would shut down the entire world one week before my first classes started, but I managed to adapt to online learning, and PCC made it very easy for me to adjust to the new schedule.

Some classes were very challenging. A lot of homework was a recipe for late nights, early mornings and enjoying maybe a half of a weekend during some semesters, but it was all worth it. I also inadvertently signed up for four accelerated accounting classes in the summer of 2021. I managed to earn the entry level Accounting Clerk Certificate two semesters early.

Why is this program worth it? After finishing my last class for my last semester, I started a position five days after graduating with a very large nonprofit in Portland. Within two days of updating my LinkedIn and Indeed profiles online, I had over five recruiters reaching out to me for full-time positions. Some were temporary, but all offered great opportunities.

In addition, with my case manager's help, I submitted my very first job application with my resume and cover letter to the State of Oregon. I passed the first round and received an interview invitation. This was the very first job application I had to do in over 27 years and could not believe I even made it to an interview! I may get the position, but if I don't, I know I have done something right and am on my way towards a rewarding career. Prior to my associate's degree and the certificate, I was barely getting noticed on LinkedIn or Indeed. Now I receive inquiries at least every other day.

I would do this all over again and would recommend this program to anyone who is eligible. A certificate or a degree is a big deal in most positions now, and if you have one to add to your resume, you will get noticed. I am proof positive. I also plan on continuing my education by getting a bachelor's degree, something I never dreamed of doing.

“I couldn't have made a better choice to start this next chapter of my life in a career that has endless possibilities. I would do this all over again and would recommend this program to anyone who is eligible.”

Kimberly Bachmeier



Brennen Thacker

“In 2017, a bunch of our call centers were purportedly outsourced to the Philippines. ... I felt all my advancement opportunities had been taken away, and I found myself making considerably less money. I quickly grew depressed and couldn't find a way to improve my situation.

... In September 2018, I went down to our local WorkSource Oregon center and discussed the situation with a representative. ... I told her why I left the company, and she told me to fill out some paperwork (for the Trade Act program).... I received a letter back from the Trade Act program shortly after saying I'd been approved into the program, and soon received a call from my first Trade Act case manager.

My case manager was excited to hear that I had already started college and was paying for it myself. We conducted a search, found no similar work available in my area, and discussed jobs I wanted to pursue. He helped me build a training program based off what I



was already doing — aiming to follow my dream of becoming a graphic designer or app designer by attending the digital media and design program at Klamath Community College.

I did not qualify for unemployment for the obvious reasons, so my case manager also helped me understand how I could find scholarships and grants to help me. He explained that since I was already a year into my associate's degree program, it might be better to wait until the last term of it to start my Trade Act training plan and pursue a bachelor's degree that would complement my work in digital media and design.

I never thought getting a bachelor's degree was something I would be able to afford and had already written that idea off before talking to my case manager, so, naturally, I was ecstatic. We agreed on this course of action, and I did exactly what he recommended. ... I now find myself graduated with two degrees — an associate's of applied science in digital media and design, and a Bachelor of Science degree in communication studies.

I am so happy to receive such a wonderful opportunity to pursue my dreams. I have the technical skills and the social competencies I need to be a graphic designer, app designer, multimedia specialist, content manger, interpreter with the National Park Service, and many other things.

Because of the Trade Act program, I have also completed four internships/externships and have demonstrated my competency in these fields through application. I enjoyed all of my externships and felt fulfilled in the work I did in each of them.

Trade Act allowed me to gain the competencies required to do my dream jobs and get a taste of what having those jobs was like. ... I would recommend the Trade Act program to anyone whose work situation has been changed for the worse, especially due to forces beyond their control, and who's looking to improve their ability to find a meaningful career that can support them and their family and help them live the American dream.”

“Trade Act allowed me to gain the competencies required to do my dream jobs and get a taste of what having those jobs was like. ... I would recommend the Trade Act program to anyone...”

Brennen Thacker



Margau Dodele

“Losing my job as a project manager for a large manufacturing company was difficult. It was the first position that allowed me to use my leadership skills I had acquired throughout my five years with the company. When I found out the company was closing our location and sending most of the positions overseas, it made me feel like I was losing part of my family.

Luckily, due to the company’s closure, the employees qualified for the federal Trade Act program. I was immediately interested in applying. While I had some basic skills in project management, I knew I could learn more, and this seemed like the perfect opportunity.

Being able to go back to school to earn a master’s degree in business administration, with a concentration in project management, was a dream come true. The program helped me each step of the way. My case manager was available to help with any questions and led me towards the necessary answers. I would recommend pursuing this training program if the opportunity arises. I now feel confident that I have the necessary skill set to aid me in finding a great career in project management.”

“I would recommend pursuing this training program if the opportunity arises. I now feel confident that I have the necessary skill set to aid me in finding a great career in project management.”

Margau Dodele



Mark Kuhn

“Hello, my name is Mark Kuhn. I was laid off from an airplane manufacturer in Portland in July of 2020 after working for them for almost two years as a 5axis CNC mill operator. I wanted to make the best out of my time while being unemployed, so I got involved with the Trade Act program. This program paid for three terms of school, so I could get my associate’s degree in machine manufacturing technology. ... Now that I have my degree, it makes my resume stand out more while I’m looking for another job.”

“This program paid for three terms of school, so I could get my associate’s degree...”

Mark Kuhn



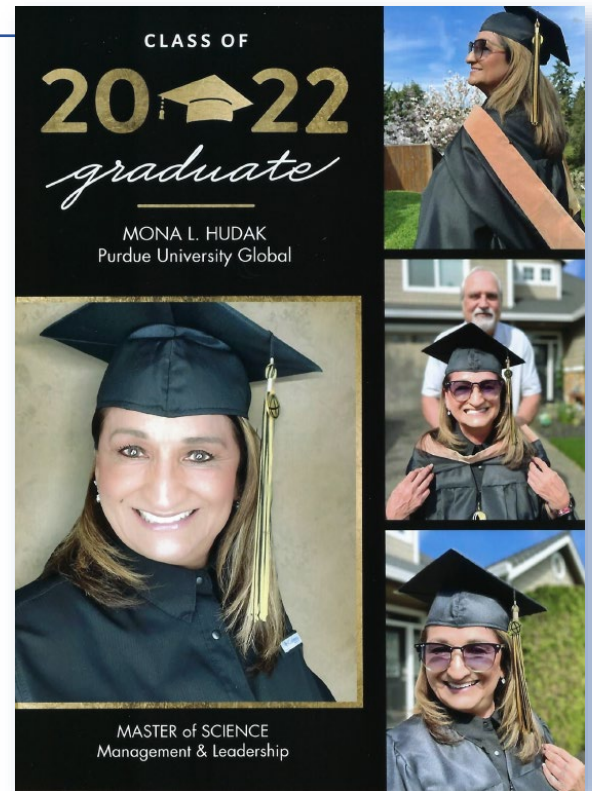
Mona Hudak

“It’s been nearly seven months since my May 2022 graduation from Purdue University Global. I wanted to take this time to reflect on the challenges, the support, and the ultimate goal I have now. Completing my master’s degree has long been a goal, but life gets in the way sometimes.

In 2020, I was aware that this degree path was available to me and it would be managed by the Oregon Employment Department as part of the Trade Act program. I was determined to see this through. With the help of my Trade Act case manager, who really took ownership of my path, I was able to visualize success.

This path didn’t come without challenges in selecting and getting approval to attend the program I chose, but my case manager stepped in to provide me answers and then support all along the way. This meant she managed the tuition, the program-required textbooks, and any other obstacles that appeared. With my case manager managing the logistics of the program, this freed me to concentrate on my academics. I am proud to say that I graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

This program, and my ultimate graduation, has allowed me to represent higher education on my resume and in my contributions. I have a role at a global, high-tech organization where I am participating in valuable, impactful programs as a business development manager. I have no doubt that my leadership and management skills gained through the Trade Act program, will continue to serve me. Many, many thanks for the support of the State of Oregon and to my Trade Act case manager.”



“I have no doubt that my leadership and management skills gained through the Trade Act program, will continue to serve me.”

Mona Hudak



Eric Michaels

“When I was laid off in July of 2020, it was a strange time to say the least. COVID was running rampant and I just was just laid off from my job that I had for the last five years. My wife is a stay-at-home mom and I have a teenage stepdaughter. A million thoughts run through your head. What am I going to do? How am I going to pay my bills? Do I go get a new job, or two, depending on the pay? Is my wife going to have to get a part time job? Should I go back to school?

The amount of stress from the uncertainty of my future to provide for my family, as well as myself, was overwhelming. I knew of the Trade Act program from my company’s joint programs, and I spoke with them prior to my last day. But I knew I had to wait for a while to get the letter before I could apply. I did some research and knew I wanted to better myself in the hope of getting a better job when I got my call back, but to put myself in a positive position on the chance I didn’t get called back.

I registered for machine tool technologies at Mt. Hood Community College and took a part-time job cooking. I signed up to receive unemployment benefits as well. I was into my first term in the fall when I got my letter from the Trade Act program and went through the application process. Right before my second term, I was enrolled in the Trade Act program. It was a sigh of relief; I felt like a weight had been lifted off my shoulders!

I continued to work part time, but made sure my training took the majority of my focus — as keeping my grades up was the #1 priority for me. Thanks to the Trade Act program, I was able to keep that focus. I’ve kept an average GPA of 3.739, and I am set to graduate this year. I also was called back to work at my trade-affected employer. I am still continuing my training until it is completed. I hope to use this training to enroll into a machinist apprenticeship by July, where, upon completion, I will be a journeyman CNC machinist.

I know I could have done it alone, but having the Trade Act program helped take the stress off me and allow me to focus on my training. That, and the love and support from my family, has helped me succeed. Thank you for this opportunity to better myself.”

“Thanks to the Trade Act program, I was able to keep that focus and have kept an average GPA of 3.739 ... having the Trade Act program helped take the stress off me and allow me to focus on my training. ”

Eric Michaels



Tech Pilot

In 2022, The Oregon TAA program served 43 Trade Act participants through the Tech Pilot program.

While job loss due to foreign trade is devastating to both individuals and communities, trade-related layoffs may have a more significant impact on historically underserved communities. The Oregon TAA program has identified specific barriers to employment faced by underserved communities, and it's often due to a lack of technology access. For many individuals, the inability to afford a laptop, internet connection, or gain computer skills can be a major block to reentering the workforce.

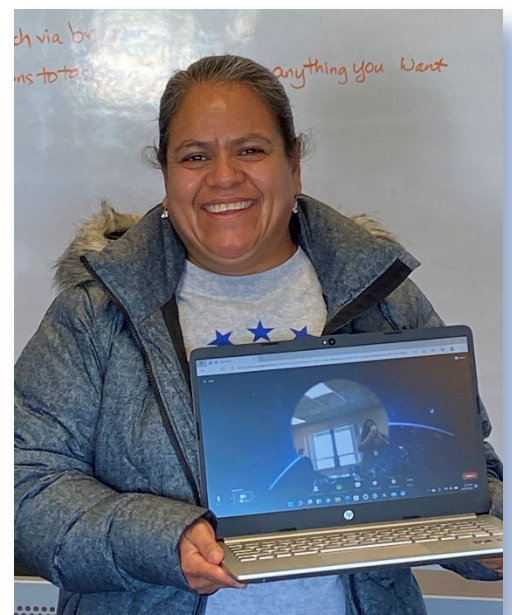


To address this issue, the Tech Pilot program assists eligible Trade Act participants in getting the necessary technology for job search and training.

The benefits of this program include

- 1. Providing eligible individuals a laptop**
- 2. Paying for an internet connection**
- 3. Accessing basic computer skills training**

By bridging this technology gap, the Tech Pilot program empowers underserved communities and increases their chances of successfully joining the job market.



Service Delivery for People who speak only one language

On Nov. 23, 2020, the Department of Labor Office of Trade Adjustment Assistance (DOL OTAA) approved a petition filed by Oregon for the workers of NorPac. There were about 1,447 workers included in five different locations. Nineteen of these NorPac workers also participated in the Tech Pilot program.

Most of the workers who are impacted understand and speak only one language, such as Vietnamese, Spanish, or Marshallese. They also have limited schooling and not much experience with technology.

The Oregon TAA (Trade Adjustment Assistance) program is required by law to provide essential services to Oregon trade-affected workers, including those covered by the NorPac petition. Because of the large number of workers covered by this certification and COVID-19's adverse impact to usual service delivery, the Oregon TAA program has taken a customer-centric approach by providing in-person services to meet the needs of their customers right where they are. This strategic move has proven to be remarkably successful.



Accessibility statement

Need help?

The Oregon Employment Department (OED) is an equal opportunity agency. OED provides free help so you can use our services. Some examples are sign language and spoken-language interpreters, written materials in other languages, large print, audio, and other formats. To get help, please call 503-947-3096. TTY users call 711. You can also send an email to: taacentral@employ.oregon.gov

Oregon Trade Act Program

2022 Success Stories

Trade Adjustment Assistance is a program of the Oregon Employment Department

10/2023