

Career fair success—Ops Challenge Team at Women in Trades

By Casey Plank, King County



Lab specialist Suzanne Potts helps a student dismantle a small pump in a maintenance activity.



Operator Darek Kenaston helps a student cut pipe.

STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER KING COUNTY learned about careers with the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) and saw WTD's Poofighters Ops Challenge team in action at the Women In Trades career fair on May 9 at the Seattle Center.

WTD staff spent the day talking with and teaching students in grades 6–12 about the types of jobs and skills required for WTD field work. Events like this help teach young people our agency would be a great utility to work for. Visitors were primarily high school students from around the region – many from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

About 250 students tried their hand at pipetting water in a lab activity, building and dismantling a small pump in a maintenance activity, and cutting a pipe in an Operations Challenge activity. Over 700 people stopped by the booth to pick up swag and materials over the course of the day.

WTD operations, human resources, and education staff worked together to make an exhibit that was interactive, engaging, and effectively drew in students and career counselors. WTD even won first place for indoor exhibit for the second year in a row!

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