



BUILDING THE FUTURE:
Port of Kalama Supports Kalama School's CTE

Mark Wilson | Executive Director

BUILDING THE WORKFORCE TALENT PIPELINE

Port partners w/ KSD CTE to prepare students for careers – the genesis



- Started with a conversation with the new superintendent
 - Interest in broadening offerings – more than college pathway
 - Desire for apprenticeships and work-based learning
 - Obstacles
- Annual employee census, including zip code of employee
 - Fewer employees in industrial base living in Kalama
- Port/School partnership began

SPOTLIGHT ON THE THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Nationally-recognized CTE lead, Cory Torppa

- Teaches Construction, Engineering Design + Manufacturing
- CTE Director for Kalama School District
- Nationally-recognized leader in skilled trades education
- SkillsUSA chapter advisor; builds community service into program
- Works w/ Port to align curriculum w/ employer needs

KALAMA HIGH'S CTE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

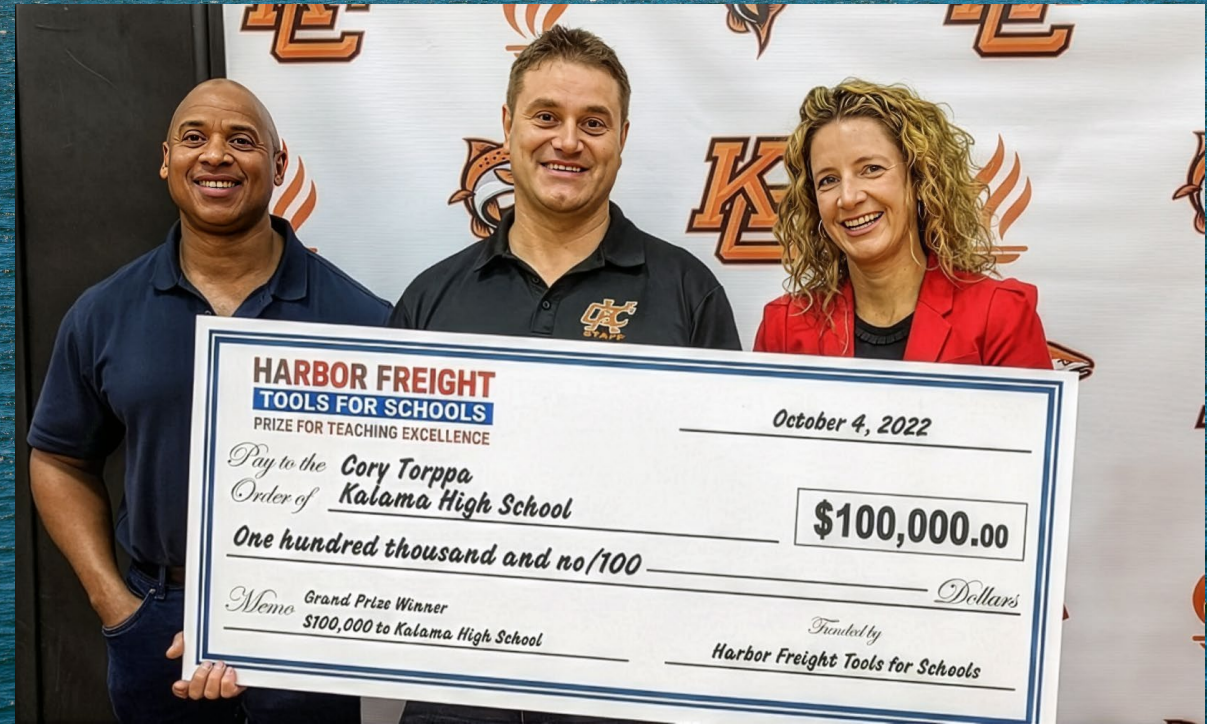
A strong foundation the Port helps to amplify

- Hands-on program preparing students for a career and college-ready pathways
- 8 pathways directly aligned w/ jobs: Engineering, Manufacturing, Construction, Business/Marketing, Skilled Trades, Agriculture & Natural Resources
- 26 dual-credit classes + 8 industry-recognized credentials
- Director and Superintendent mapped out routes to provide the best connectivity between education and industry

CTE PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING

Torppa secures big wins; fuels Kalama's CTE growth

- 2022 State CTE Grant—Nearly \$333K
- 2022 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Grand Prize—\$100K (national award; one of only 5 winners nationwide)
- Purchased professional equipment (laser engravers, 3D printers, heat presses, etc.) and enabled capstone projects (tiny home build)
- Cowlitz Tribe grant of \$100K for tiny home program/materials
- Grants + Port partnership = rapid expansion and real-world readiness



"We're trying to prepare our students to be career and college-ready."
-- Cory Torppa

PORT SUPPORTS KALAMA'S CTE PROGRAM

Staff contribute with advisory roles, public events + opportunities

- Three Port staff serve on KSD's CTE Advisory Board: Mark Wilson, Eric Yakovich, Dan Polacek
- Actively participate in year-round meetings w/ industry leaders + school officials to align curriculum w/ maritime employer needs
- Staff KSD annual career fair—direct conversations w/ students about real Port jobs
- Provide prime retail space @ Mountain Timber Market (% rent model)
- Co-develops promo items w/ Chinook Shoppe for Kalama Cultural Festival + tourism initiatives



THE CHINOOK SHOPPE

Student-run business at Port's Mountain Timber Market



- Work based learning opportunity
 - Marketing, product design, manufacturing, and retail sales
- Students first built a kiosk (modular construction class project), then expanded to permanent 450 sq. ft. storefront
- Students now design and manufacture custom promotional items for Port events
- Direct exposure to Port operations and customer service in a real retail setting

WATCH THE AWB VIDEO SPOTLIGHT

Real Students. Real Business. Real results.





QUESTIONS? THANK YOU!

**Mark Wilson,
Executive Director**