

**WORKER RETRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE - MINUTES**

**Tuesday June 6 2017 \* 11.30-1.30pm**

**JSH 250**

**Members Present**: Julie Miller (Vice Chair), WorkSource; Kimberly Pincheira, CREDC; Michelle Thor, Columbia Credit Union; Scott Bailey, ESD; Natalie Pacholl, SEH; Jay Schmidt, Silicon Forest Electronics; Darcy Altizer, SWCA; Mark Maggiora, Americans Building Community; Catherine Erickson, Columbia Machine; David Woodlock, HP Inc.

**Members Absent**: Chelsea Chunn, Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW); Travis Elmore, WA State Nurses Association;

**Guests:** JC Miller, Larch Correctional Center

**Clark College**:Cathy Sherick, Assoc. Director Instructional Planning & Innovation; Rachele Bakic, Associate Dean of Instructional Operations; Genevieve Howard, Dean of WPTE; Brenda Walstead, Dean of BHS; Rebecca Kleiva, Financial Aid; Teri Kaufman, Registration; François Wevers, ECD; Nichola Farron, Secretary Senior – Advisory Committees

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Committee vice chair Julie Miller called the meeting to order at 11.35 and introductions were made, including a number of new members to the committee.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

*The minutes of March 14 2017 were presented, Michelle made a motion to approve; this was seconded by Karl and passed unanimously.*

Next Meeting Date

The committee will meet again on Tuesday October 31 at 11.30am and will incorporate a tour of the Dental Hygiene facility.

Office of Instruction Announcements

The Healthy Penguin Walk on June 3 was a very successful event that allowed the health and business students to work collaboratively and welcome members of the community in to learn about the dangers of sugar.

July 13, 2017 – Evening event to recognize our committees and the terrific volunteers that come to meetings two times a year to support students. Watch for additional details to arrive via email.

Clark College will hold graduation at the Sunlight Supply Amphitheater on Thursday June 22 at 7:00 p.m. It is a great way to celebrate the work of the committees. There is always a need for volunteers at the event, if you are interested please let us know.

In addition, the culinary program is due to relaunch in September of this year.

Genevieve continued with further information about the culinary relaunch: it will be completely different from previous programs and will involve a newly devised curriculum. The new space will include four kiosks and a retail bakery with food cooked to order and interaction between students and customers. A restaurant will also be opened eventually. There will be a self-op working in tandem with the program.

SBCTC workforce updates

Cathy and Rachele spoke about plans to look at the various grants – Perkins, Worker Retraining, and WIOA – that the College receives and form a more cohesive approach to their application on campus. It is also hoped that the grants can be leveraged with support services so that students and staff have a greater awareness of the resources potentially available to them.

Rebecca notified the committee that a grant has been received to support re-entry services for individuals who are returning to work after incarceration. The College has startup funds for supplies, can assist with establishing financial aid and has navigators at each of the prisons and at the colleges. There are four recipients of this assistance finishing their first term shortly. Additionally, Clark will waive application fees and give them a free backpack as part of the combined efforts to help retention.

Julie shared that WorkSource receives title I and title III funding under WIOA and that she works to connect with employers to offer funding for internships, résumé and interview help, provide on-the-job training and connect students with the local employer base. In addition, they work with veterans and the incarcerated. She continued that it would be good to have a more cohesive approach to connect the College and local employment partners with the resources to help students, but also to avoid duplication.

Genevieve commented that the transition into the Guided Pathways model would mean that students would have a better opportunity to forecast when they will graduate meaning the College can create better plans for transitioning them out to employers and community partners.

Natalie spoke about how there is a need for a clear systematic structure to connect with students: SEH has technician positions available but there is not a clear indication what the mechanism is to outreach to students. She continued that they are hoping to establish a long-term partnership.

The committee discussed the need to continue working on methods to connect resources. Cathy also spoke about the model currently used by the automotive programs that allowed students to earn as they worked towards their degree as a successful method of establishing a relationship with local business.

The Guided Pathways model was also recognized as a way of giving students’ direction and creating stronger interactions and communication between College services with immediate guidance at the front-end of study.

JC spoke about the struggles he has in encountering a lack of social acceptance for those who have been incarcerated. Out of 10 releases per month, only 2 will get a job: there is still a taboo about being a former prisoner. JC asked for thoughts and suggestions for breaking this stigma, especially as there are constant reports of employers needing more employees: JC has qualified individuals who are being passed over because of their record.

Cathy spoke about this being part of the wider issues of Power, Privilege and Inequity that the College is working to address internally, but that also define the wider work-place. JC would encourage people on the committee to visit Larch and connect with the population there.

Action Item: Nichola will invite JC to other Advisory Committee meetings to provide an opportunity to connect with community partners.

Updates

ECD - François commented that the apprenticeship program through Clark’s ECD (Economic Community Development) has just had fifteen students complete. This program is developed in conjunction with employers who cover half the cost.

Governor’s Summit – Mark asked for a summary of the key points from the recent Governor’s summit on CTE in WA. Jay reported that it had been shared that the average age of apprentices is 27-29, which demonstrates a gap between high school and the career field.

Connecting with High Schools – The committee dicussed the importance of connecting with local high schools, for example through the STEM network or other initiatives. This would strengthen the pipeline from school to College and then employment.

Natalie also mentioned that it is important to continue to challenge the narrative in High Schools that attending a four-year college is the only option to result in rewarding or lucrative careers. She continued that she would favor greater publicity of the fact that classes can be flexible, with evening courses etc., and that the option for workers to opt into education at non-traditional points exists.

Cathy asked the committee members what was an approach or initiative that Clark could take to be exceptional. David spoke about the problem of a lack of diversity in his industry and Clark could work towards getting more women and under-represented groups into the tech field.

Student Numbers

Rebecca reported that 170 FTEs were supported in spring and she will update numbers for the committee, as there are a huge number of graduates. In terms of the grant allocation, there is $2000 left to spend in budget: the Workforce education team have spent $156 000 on tuition, $67 000 on books $20 000 on supplies, $82 000 in direct support to students. The office will hit the FTE target of 203 FTEs and look to have $650 000 of tuition supported by alternative forms of funding.

Following the meeting discussion, the committee were given a tour of the Welding facility.

*Prepared by Nichola Farron*