



Advanced Manufacturing -MINUTES
December 3rd, 2024, at 12:00 PM
SHL Room 214

Members Present: Jay Schmidt (Committee Chair), Board Chair, SW WA High-Tech Council; Alyssa Joyner (Vice-Chair); Sr. Project Manager, Workforce SW WA; Toni Neary, Director of Community Engagement & Workforce, SME; Jeff Ripp, Machine Shop Leadman, USNR; Craig Lahti, Manufacturing Manager, Columbia Machine; Melanie Walker, CTE & CCL Coordinator, ESD 112; Brad D'Emilio, Kyocera

Guests:

Members Absent: Connor Lenhart, Assistant Program Manager, Airgas; Mark Stanley, Recruitment and Training (retired), Columbia Machine

Labor Representative:

Clark College: Theo Koupelis, Dean of WPTE & STEM, Clark College; Dr. Terry Brown, Vice President of Instruction, Clark College; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College; Kathy Chennault, Foundation, Clark College; Justin Stokes, Foundation, Clark College

The meeting began at 12:12 PM

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on February 18th, 2025, at Noon.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on April 16th, 2024, were approved.

ETHICS TRAINING

Elizabeth conducted the Advisory Committee Ethics Training.

ORIENTATION TRAINING

Elizabeth conducted the Advisory Orientation Training.

OUTCOME UPDATES

Welcome and introductions were made.

Theo discussed the desired outcomes of the Advanced Manufacturing program.

Theo emphasized the significance of the advisory committee and the support of its members by contributing their time, experience, and expertise to guide the committee.

Theo welcomed committee feedback on curriculum improvements. Additionally, opened the conversation to equipment recommendations that match industry needs. Theo encouraged nominations for committee members from community or business partners.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Theo discussed the previous developments and highlighted the changes that the program had to implement. The pandemic impacted construction costs, leading to budget cuts; however, the size of the building remains substantial. The College is thankful to the various committees and faculty members for their efforts in ensuring that the project stayed on track.

Theo acknowledged Justin's significant support to the development of the program. Theo mentioned that the program has obtained a temporary certificate of occupancy. However, it has encountered challenges in completing the faculty hiring process.

MTX UPDATES

Jay inquired about Mechatronic updates.

Theo mentioned that enrollments in Mechatronics are on the rise, and the program will play a central role in clean energy. There is significant support at both State and Federal levels for establishing a clean energy center. The two programs are an integral part of one another.

Theo discussed that the original plan was to move the Welding and Mechatronics programs to Boschma Farms. However, the Welding program will remain on the main campus to ensure adequate space for students and their learning experience.

Dr. Brown emphasized the importance of connecting students with opportunities at Boschma Farms. The College remains committed to supporting its Welding, Advanced Manufacturing, and Mechatronics programs and is actively seeking ways to align its career resources and credit offerings with its partnerships.

Kathy expressed interest in the development of a machining program.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING BUSINESS-EDUCATION SUMMIT REVIEW

Melanie shared insights from the recent summit, where partnerships with K-12 school systems and various stakeholders convened to identify the needs of the region in support of students. This was a pilot model that will expand from the Advanced Manufacturing program to other educational programs.

Discussion topics included the needs of entry-level workers and high school students, the importance of quality assurance, the development of soft skills, and the identification of long-term professionals in the engineering industry.

Melanie discussed work-based learning opportunities through Career and Technical Education, including guest speakers, tours, and both paid and unpaid internships.

Toni shared information regarding comprehensive teaching.

Melanie talked about the recent back-to-school tours, which were successful.

Melanie talked about ways to support and expand the career launch initiative.

Jay discussed limitless learning and externships highlighting the significance of opportunities for industry partners to work with educators.

Melanie discussed summer internship opportunities.

Melanie discussed the benefits of flipped internships and the importance of recruiting outreach programs for elementary and middle schools to diversify our workforce. She emphasized the need to encourage younger girls to explore STEM opportunities and highlighted the Empower program.

Theo recommended connecting with the Girl Scouts for further outreach and partnership with STEM-related opportunities.

Toni favored Theo's suggestion and recommended connecting with the local SEO for Girl Scouts.

Toni discussed Pixie for classes, workshops, and other stem-related classes.

Dr. Brown discussed available registered apprenticeships as paid internships are critical for students.

Toni is working with Jobs for the Future (JFF) and will share more information.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK

Jay noted further discussion on program messaging and the opportunities surrounding this topic.

Furthermore, the committee will discuss running dual credit and other pathway options to better align with the K-12 school system, workforce, industry, and education system.

Jay noted the discussion of marketing for the program since the Career Technical and Education programs have little to no debt options and two-year programs are incredibly beneficial.

Jay noted the topics of working on receiving grant funding through the Department of Education for clean energy. Jay welcomed members to get in touch with Melanie if anyone is interested in partnering or providing a letter of support.

Jeff invited mass manufacturing facilities or groups to visit the new facility and encouraged apprentices and partners to visit.

Craig is in favor of more program outreach in elementary and middle schools to diversify students.

Melanie recommended outreach in rural schools such as the Gorge, Washington for more opportunities. And is in favor of structured externships, internships, and flipped internships.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Alyssa volunteered as Vice-Chair, Craig seconded, and all unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM