



SURGICAL TECH -MINUTES
Wednesday, November 16th, 2023, at Noon.
Zoom

Members Present: Jessica Bunnell, Peter, Brian Adair, Kristi Almquist, Lauri, Keri Ferraro

Guest: Illona Tkachenko.

Members Absent: Stacy Anderson.

Clark College: Scot Headley, Beth Jochim, Andreana DiGiorgio, Kathy Chennault, Olga Lyubar, Heidi Fay, Elizabeth Flores

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on February 22nd, 2024, at Noon.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

This was the first Surgical Tech Advisory Meeting.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Elizabeth presented the Advisory New Member Orientation PowerPoint.

Introductions were made.

Scot Headley introduced his role as the new Allied Health Dean.

Scot shared the 10% increase in enrollment and the positive energy on campus.

Scot announced that the Surgical Technician program will increase enrollment in the Allied Health sector.

Scot mentioned that the college was given a generous donation to construct a building on Boschma Farms in Ridgefield to support the Advanced Manufacturing program.

Scot mentioned that the college is searching for a vice president of instruction, and the search is expected to conclude soon.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Beth talked about the progress of the Surgical Tech program and how it successfully went through all three departments. She is working on submissions to SBCTC for approval next week, which can take a few months.

Beth shared that the Surgical Tech program is successfully on track to begin in the Fall of 2024.

Beth mentioned the HEET grant with Peace Health remains in partnership with the labor union and Clark.

Beth agreed to form a subcommittee to recruit students for the surgical tech program at Clark College.

Scot inquired if any industry members are involved in labor unions or Peace Health to schedule a meeting about the program for new students or current workers.

Beth discussed the Surgical Tech program, which can now be implemented during the second year thanks to the HEET grant.

Beth announced an opening for a full-time Surg Tech Director at the Clark College WSU site. The Director will oversee accreditation and coursework and work closely with Beth.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Peter has requested a job description for the Surgical Tech Director position.

Beth asked for industry feedback regarding hiring needs or student feedback.

Kristi advised the students to distinguish between the equipment's capabilities and their ability to use current technology.

Brian recommended that students prioritize learning the latest robotic technology as it becomes increasingly important in surgery.

Lauri discussed the importance of clinical as it prepares students for hands-on experience.

Beth discussed the importance of clinicals and is incorporating simulations, but she is pushing for more clinicals.

Peter discussed the healthcare community's staffing shortage. Professionals are being lost faster than they can be replaced.

Peter noticed a shortage of surgical technicians due to COVID-19, post-pandemic retirement, and college debt.

Beth has mentioned that there will be additional outreach programs for high school students interested in allied health. There has been an increase in enrollment in the allied health programs this academic year.

Brian suggested informing high school students about financial aid and scholarship opportunities to pay for college.

Pete initiated an outreach program at Peace Health. As a part of this, students were invited to view the robot rooms to garner their interest. With the partnership of Clark, Peace Health can now collaborate with the college to engage students more and discuss the tuition reimbursement program offered by Peace Health.

Beth shared the success of Olga's healthcare camp during the summer, and students could engage in activities and view the various allied health programs through activities and workshops.

Keri mentioned that various facilities invite students to visit their facilities, and it's been impactful for recruitment. Currently, Kaiser has many job openings for surgical techs and uses surgical tech first assist.

Lauri suggests educating students on growth opportunities, like promotions in healthcare and their abundance.

Beth mentioned that students can obtain a sterile processing certificate midway through their program, allowing them to work while continuing their studies.

During his discussion, Peter emphasized that students who complete the certification process become well-rounded and prepared for their careers.

ACTION ITEMS

The committee elected Kristi as chair.

The committee elected Keri as vice chair.

