



SURV-MINUTES
October 15, 2025, at 12:00 PM
Clark College SCI Room 123

Members Present: John Blaikie (Committee Chair), Clark County Surveyor, S&F Land Services; John Besancon (Vice-Chair), Engineering Technician, Clark County Surveyor's Office; Mike Swanson, BLM Indian Lands Surveyor, Bureau of Land Management; Weston Dorszynski, PLS, City Survey Manager, City of Vancouver, Survey Dept; Justin Bowling, WFL Survey Manager & FHWA Land Services Discipline Champion, Federal Highway Administration-Western Federal Lands; Tim Hollenbeck, Project Surveyor, AKS Engineering & Forestry, LLC; Tony Chenier, Land Surveyor, MacKay Sposito;

Guests:

Members Absent: Paul Galli, Land Surveyor, Cowlitz County

Clark College: Brian Miyake, Tenure Track and Faculty, Clark College; Elizabeth Flores, Advisory Coordinator, Clark College; Tina Barsotti, Surveying Department Chair, Clark College; April Cannon, Academic Advisor, Clark College; Jeff Lynch, Surveying Professor, Survey Specialist, City of Vancouver & Clark College; Tommy Beyea, Associate Director of Development and Partner Giving, Clark College Foundation; Rob Sumrall, Surveying Adjunct Professor, Clark College

The meeting began at 12:10 PM, and a quorum was met.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The committee will meet next on April 22, 2026.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting on April 23, 2025, were approved.

COLLEGE UPDATES

Tina shared that the college is preparing for accreditation and noted that the accreditation team spoke highly of Brian's contributions to outcomes assessment.

FOUNDATION UPDATES

Justin highlighted outreach to the surveying community for participation in the 2025 Penguins Give Day. He is awaiting a finalized budget and a grant submission to the LSAW Foundation. Once

reviewed, Justin will share the budget worksheet and industry one-page document with the committee. He noted that the Penguins Give Day website will go live by November 1, 2025. Weston asked what surveying programs are available in Oregon.

Justin responded that Oregon Institute of Technology (OIT) offers a program.

Tony added that Oregon State University (OSU) also has a program.

Tony asked whether Clark funds any portion of the LSPS student competition.

Brian confirmed that funding is provided through support from the Foundation.

Tony asked about additional fundraising efforts (e.g., car washes) for students attending the competition and offered that his organization is willing to donate.

Justin recommended that members provide a script for use on a GiveCampus page to support fundraising efforts.

Justin announced the Foundation's Annual Event Gala will take place on November 13, 2025, at 5:00 PM.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Paul motioned to promote John Blaike as Committee Chair; Mike seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Mike nominated John Besancon as Vice-Chair; Rob seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Tina suggested forming a SURV Club and noted that funding could be requested through ASCC as early as fall via a one-time funding request.

Weston asked whether the Young Surveyors Network (YSN) could qualify as a club.

Tina confirmed this may be possible if permitted within the community college framework.

CURRICULUM UPDATES

Brian shared that two new adjunct instructors started in Fall 2025, with a third beginning in Winter 2026.

Brian noted a demographic shift, with approximately one-third or more of students now in the 16–18 age range, lowering the program's average age.

Tony asked how students are discovering the program.

Brian responded that many are second-generation surveyors or learn through word of mouth, while others are recent high school graduates from the Seattle area. He added that the program is working to expand high school outreach.

Tony recommended tracking how new students are learning about the program; Brian agreed this would be beneficial.

April shared that interest in technical careers is increasing and is less likely to be impacted by AI. John Blaike asked about the status of the four-year degree.

Tina reported that the proposal has been written and submitted. Budget development is still in progress, and she will be meeting with Justin and Nicole. Tina emphasized opportunities to serve tribal lands and Indigenous students, including collaboration with the Cowlitz Tribe, and noted the need for executive support from the VPI.

Tina added that there is minimal local competition for programs in Civil Engineering and Construction Management.

Theo stated that most instructional needs can be met with adjunct faculty and does not anticipate barriers to program expansion, though the VPI is currently focused on accreditation.

John Blaike noted that the Yakama Nation recently lost their tribal surveyor.

Justin offered to connect with the Siletz Tribe.

Weston asked about outreach materials.

Brian stated he will share a program flyer with the committee.

CONFERENCES

Brian shared that the program plans to attend LSAW and PLSO conferences and asked about travel accommodations.

John Blaike encouraged pursuing support, noting that professional chapters may assist with costs.

Justin recommended applying for the Grant for Student Success Fund and will share details with Brian.

Tony suggested contacting Crissy Wilson regarding booth space.

EQUIPMENT

Brian reported that the program has submitted a request for equipment.

NSPS COMPETITION

Brian shared that a student team has been formed and there is strong interest in attending the NSPS competition. Participation will depend on a mix of first- and second-year students.

Weston asked about team size.

Brian confirmed that teams consist of six students.

Tony noted the possibility of supporting multiple teams (e.g., teams of six and five) to allow more students to participate.

INDUSTRY UPDATES

John Blaike emphasized strong demand for surveyors and encouraged students to build marketable skills and engage with professional organizations such as LSAW and YSN.

Tim Kent shared that he offered to cover membership costs for the first 10 students who approached him, but no students participated.

Tina asked whether pursuing accreditation for the SURV bachelor's degree would be beneficial;

John Blaike confirmed that it would.

Tony encouraged students to actively network and engage with the professional community to access funding and opportunities.

Justin reported that the industry remains busy, particularly with federal land and highway projects, and noted ongoing workforce transitions.

John Blaike asked whether internships are available.

Surveying & Geomatics
Advisory Committee Meeting
October 15, 2025

Justin stated he is working to strengthen connections to better link students with internship opportunities.

Mike noted that the HR process at BLM has been challenging.

Weston shared that their organization has previously hired students as summer temporary employees.

Tim discussed Washington House Bill 1096, which will establish clearer standards by 2027, allowing lot splitting without requiring a full subdivision process.

John Blaike reported positive feedback on the LSIT prep class and its value for students.

Justin asked whether employees must be enrolled to participate in LSIT prep.

Brian responded that it may be offered through community education, potentially as early as spring.

John Blaike asked if there is any outdated equipment available for donation to the program.

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 PM

Prepared by Elizabeth Flores