**Worker Retraining Advisory Committee Meeting**

**April 17, 2015**

**Clark College, JSH 120**

**In Attendance:**

Darcy Altizer, Rachele Bakic, Armetta Burney, Cathy Sherick, Darla Utter, Kimberly Pincheira, Mark Maggiora, Michelle Thor, Rachele Bakic, Rebecca Kleiva, Rich Gibler, Scott Bailey, Tim Cook

**Absent:** Blake Bowers, Karen Driscoll, Genevieve Howard, Jennifer Dahl, Norton Sweet, Travis Elmore, Terri Kaufman

**Guest**: Brian Schoonover, ACED student

**Approved Minutes from Winter Meeting**

Rich Gibler will be added as **In Attendance**.

* **Discussion:**

With the addition of Rich Gibler in attendance, a motion was made to approve the Feb 27, 2015, minutes as written. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Welcome & Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves and gave a brief account of where they work and their job duties.

**Student Testimony**

Brian Schoonover, a Clark College ACED graduate, shared how Worker Retraining (WR) helped him on his Clark College path and in turn helped him gain employment. In Jan 2013, Brian lost his job. A career he had been doing eight years. He lost it not due to restructuring, but to personal burn-out. At that time he was excited and ready to go back to school. Then the fear hit. He established residency and came to Clark College to get started. He made too much money to qualify for Financial Aid so they sent him to see Rebecca in WR. WR paid for his first three quarters at Clark. He did receive financial aid after a few quarters. Brian felt he had direction, help and support throughout the quarters. Rebecca also directed him towards a WF Scholarship. Brian eventually gained employment through the assistance of WR and WorkSource. He graduated Clark and has now been accepted to the Bachelor of Science Program at Concordia. Although he might decide to go through Clark’s EWU program instead. Brian is very grateful the experience, and does what he can to help other navigate the system. He has directed students towards WR. The people he went through program with are all older students. He now tells people to go to Worker Retraining and seek help. Brian truly believes if you are honest and sincere and want to return to work this program will work for you.

* **Discussion:**

Ideas:

* + We should have students share their testimonials on the Advisory Committee Website
  + Maybe have a quarterly newsletter

**Changes/updates on 2015-16 Worker Retraining Program-Rebecca Kleiva**

Worker Retraining has updated eligibility categories to include unemployed workers who have exhausted unemployment or separated from the military within the previous four years. WR has also removed verbiage around separation status for vets. This is in addition to the previous addition of a category for stop-gap employment.

Clark College WR has expended or allocated our entire FY 2014-2015 budget of $311,517. Due to collaboration with our Financial Aid department and BFET program, we were able to allocate $30,000 to Training Completion Aid in addition to securing full tuition and book funding for spring for 196 WR students.

* **Discussion:**

There were no discussion items.

**Overview of proposed 2015-16 Program Mix for WRT grant** – **Rachele Bakic & Cathy Sherick**

Rachele gave a power point on the WRT Program Overview. See [2015-16 Worker Retraining Program Plan.pptx](2015-16%20Worker%20Retraining%20Program%20Plan.pptx).

Cathy gave an overview of WA regional data as to what is in demand. Some might state that the job is not in demand where it actually is in demand in the WA region. There is currently no listing for MECH so it’s under Assemblers/fabricators on the list. We want to be really sure about what is selected and why. Right now we are staying pretty close as to what was done in the past. Some the Occupation names have changed but the program name remained the same. Auto & Dies fall in less demand but in higher demand regionally. See link [2015-16 WRT-CTCProgramMix.xlsx](2015-16%20WRT-CTCProgramMix.xlsx).

* **Discussion:**
  + What is the timeline and process for past information?
  + How do we shift investment to a different mix? Tim said that’s what this committee is for is to decide the mix. Clark is putting together an academic plan.
  + In terms of the future, we need to start this conversation earlier (Aug) to know if this is what we should be doing. Also, look at the data earlier. Cathy is interested in giving the committee real information. This program is for smaller programs that might not be in high demand regionally, but maybe locally.
  + Mark mentioned that Tracy Schreiber at SWWDC is seeking feedback from contractors and folks in the construction Industry. We need to engage people from industry and Education. Now is the time to start scoping out. Clark went away from construction at the Clark County Skills Center but is now going to take a look back at it. Mark stated that a great Charter School (ACE) Architecture/Construction/Engineering is willing to work with the Skills Center. Maybe they will work with Clark also.
  + Darcy Altizer will introduce us to NW College Construction
  + Per the discussion on education and employment, Scott has supplied a link from the Education Research and Data Center. Please see <http://www.erdc.wa.gov/data/>.
  + Given all the rules are changing in the Workforce Investment Act, what is the impact going to be on our resources? What might Clark do to get in front of that? Tim stated that we are looking at apprenticeships and partnerships.
  + Instead of waiting could we make the case for local funding? Community foundation offering? Maybe a subcommittee could work on it during the summer.
  + Darcy stated the NW Construction Expo would be Oct 2&3, 2015. She will give more information as it becomes available.

A motion was made to approve **2015-16 Program Mix for WRT grant**. The motion was seconded and approved.

**Potential new members for 2015-16 – All**

* **Discussion**
  + Beginning fall 2015, Cathy Sherick and Andreana DiGiorgio, Advisory Committee Secretary Senior, will be taking over the Worker Retraining Advisory Committees for Rachele Bakic and Darla Utter, respectively. This summer, Cathy will be re-vamping the webpage, updating the Advisory Committee handbook and doing outreach. She encouraged everyone to send information to be posted and new committee member information to her. In the fall she will be hosting a training on Running Meetings (week of Sept 14th for 3 hours).
  + Cathy asked for feedback on the Advisory Committee Breakfast that was held on March 18, 2015? The Committee would like to have student presentations next year and maybe hold it a little later in spring quarter to give time to meet the students.
  + On a side note, Tim mentioned programs that Clark is working on:

Bachelors of Applied Management, Advanced Manufacturing (Makers Center) starting as non-credit then credit down the road, Cyber-Security and Information Tech, Auto-Honda and HITech (Dick Hannah). Long term, Clark would like to be the automotive training center for the region. Cathy also mentioned that the Auto programs will be great partnerships for apprenticeship.