LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE 1600 Maple Street, Longview, WA 98632

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTER SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, NOV. 7TH, 2019 5:30 P.M. LCC STUDENT CENTER CONFERENCE ROOMS

I. Meeting called to order at 5:39 by acting chair Randy Webster

II. ATTENDEES
Donna Hughes, WorkSource
Matt Pharr, Community Home Health and Hospice
Randy Webster, Cowlitz County
Wendy Droke, Kelso High School
Donald Derkacht, LCC
David Rosi, LCC
Stefan Rijnhart, LCC

III. AGENDA ITEMS
a) Enrollment update
David Rosi shared with members that enrollment is down; currently 36 students in degree track Fall quarter. There have traditionally been 80 students or more in the Information Technology/Computer Science programs, he added. Board discussion about changes to program, additional requirements (additional math and English, addition of technical writing course) and whether these changes are affecting enrollment. Randy Webster asked about retention measures and whether students stay in the program. David said the program has less than a 10 percent drop off.

b) Labor Market data
Labor market data was shared with the group for the occupational outlook for Computer Programmer, Computer Support Specialist, Systems Analyst and Network Administrator, potential career track for LCC graduates. Data was pulled from Labor Insight, a web based job research site, for job postings in Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Lewis and Clark counties. The data showed 635 job postings with similar job titles in these counties over the past 12 months with the highest number of postings (237) for Computer Support Specialist. Projected growth over the next 10 years in these positions is 11.7% for Computer Programmer, 35.1% Computer Support Specialist, 32.9% Systems Analyst and 27.8% Network Administrator. Projected growth represents the estimated change

in total employment due to growth and replacement over the projections period (2018-2028).

c) Program updates

Eight students graduate this academic year. LCC faculty told members that students staying in the program are strong, quality performers. Conversations are taking place now with students regarding their future plans, whether they plan to continue their education or seek employment. Some students are continuing on with their education, pursuing additional degree or certification in cyber security. Columbia Basin has a two year program recognized by the National Security Administration and Homeland Security. LCC faculty looking at transfer agreements with Columbia Basin as well as City University.

Board discussion about online options. LCC faculty shared that most students prefer hybrid model – both classroom and online. The IT/Computer Science field isn't necessarily conducive to a fully online environment.

Wendy Droke shared that Kelso High School currently has 16 students in the computer science/information technology introductory courses.

LCC faculty shared with the group that they each work in industry when they are not teaching; enables them to share real life examples and work experience with students. Board members encourage outreach to high schools by faculty and industry partners as more people begin to "age out" of the workforce and the increasing need for young people getting into the field.

d) Marketing/outreach updates

LCC's revamped web pages and marketing brochures were shared with the group.
The Cowlitz Business Education Connection web site, developed through a partnership with the Kelso-Longview Chamber, Washington STEM Network, Longview and Kelso School Districts, and LCC, was shared with the group. The web site intent is to give area businesses the opportunity to connect with students and provide opportunities for job shadows, guest speakers in the classroom, and other activities that connect students with employers.

e) Employer survey

Employers in attendance completed the

IV.   UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

   a. Career Expo

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Kelso Longview Chamber and the Cowlitz STEM Network invite employers to participate in an event for 8th, 9th and 10th grade students from all school districts in Cowlitz County. There are 80 free spots for businesses to come and share information with students from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14th, at the Cowlitz County Conference Center.

b. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE): 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 16th, Student Center Conference Rooms

V. **Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.**