



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Home and Family Life Building, Room 129
May 11, 2023 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Jesse Watson, LCC Assistant Teacher, Chair
Josie Zbaeren, ECE Faculty LCC
Jenna Broderius, LCC Student
Laurie Severson, ECEAP School Readiness Specialist
Bill Ofstun, CTE Longview School District
Christine Langlely, LCC Headstart Manager
Sue Akins-Fields, Adjunct faculty ECE
Kari Johnson, LCC Director of Early Learning
Carmen McClain, ESD 112
Jenny Smith, LCC BAS Specialist, Minutes
Michaela Jackson, LCC Director of BAS Programs

***Zoom**

*Stephanie Patterson, Apprenticeships - Thank you
*Sara Hegnes, Director - Wee Care Day Care
*Michelle Mahitka, Instructor, Kelso High School

1. **Call to order:** 5:02 p.m.
2. **Approval of 11/29/2022 Minutes:** Meeting minutes were not printed so it was agreed that we will approve them by email.
3. **Ethics Training:** [Josie Zbaeren](#) - Answer sheets can be returned electronically to jzbaeren@lowercolumbia.edu by May 19, 2023.
4. **Industry updates:** New initiatives, and how can LCC help?
 - a. Mask mandates have dropped.
 - b. The vaccine mandate will be dropped soon, but it hasn't happened yet. There is no more vaccine requirement.
 - c. **Hiring practices?** Can people be hired back?
 - i. They can re-apply but there is no guarantee that the same position would be available.

- ii. Laurie shared job posts and needs 6 full-time, and 10 part-time positions
 - iii. Ridgefield and possibly Woodland schools are doing staff cuts because they are not passing levies. Bellingham has had significant cuts too. Emergency covid funds are trailing off and it is hitting a budgetary cliff.
 - iv. Longview is okay so far.
- d. **Contact Information at LCC:** there is some apprehension over grants/scholarships and a desire to know much more. Misinformation is creating some anxiety. It would be nice to know who a great contact is. There are many layers to the Merit process and candidates have to declare a professional development pathway without knowing how to answer questions. Can I do this with a full-time job? Will there be aid for me?
- e. **Funding challenges:** With respect to Early Achievers (EA) some funding had to be returned from candidates not working in a Headstart program. Federal aid or an LCC employee waiver can serve as a buffer, for those who qualify. Many may qualify for aid but don't complete the applications. WA State has a low percentage of FAFSA completers. There are additional complications that make funding more challenging (placement, income, lack of information out there)
- f. **Mentor Observations:** There is a lot of value in seeing skills that you are trying to develop being used. Identifying highly skilled instructors as mentors allows students to emulate significant skills versus working on their own.
- i. Are there practicum observations? If students are placed with mentors, the mentors observe the practicum students. If directors are reporting a lack of skills, are students getting feedback from mentors?
 - ii. Can students use their work experience time? Most are, but not everyone can. Logistically, pulling practicum students out of their classrooms to give feedback isn't easy when a student is currently employed.
 - iii. Mentor teachers are getting coached; not necessarily the students.
 - iv. In addition, turnover is a fear for both employees and employers.
- g. **Coaching Companion** recommendation: Some candidates can video themselves to ensure that feedback is an option. Would this allow us to meet them where they are? Coaching partnerships are sometimes used to review videos and offer feedback. This can be beneficial because you can select goals for improvement and it can come from a more diverse background of coaches.
- i. Early Achievers have to use the Coaching Companion (CC). The video for EA has to be 15 minutes. Video highlights allow for feedback and coaches can partner with students, but so can groups.
 - ii. The process is invitation-based and the process requires FERPA compliance, but it could be a time-saving option.
 - iii. Coaching has changed tremendously because now it is possible to design strategies for modeling the primary requirements.
 - iv. The platform is or can be FERPA compliant. If there is a reason why littles can't be videoed, recordings have to capture video without them.

- v. A concern is how much time it takes for a student to video themselves, then upload or send content, and then receive feedback. It still is time-consuming.
 - vi. A benefit is that reflective feedback is required, and the students develop the ability to self-coach.
5. **CTE APPROVALS:** General advisory committees should be approving courses according to the government (WACs/RCWs?). This falls under family and consumer sciences. Historically, it was hard to get approvals outside of individual motivations.
- a. To review agreements with districts, we have to ensure they are aware of articulations and changes. Longview is in the middle of articulations currently, but they don't offer ECE at the time.
 - b. We (LCC) are happy to collaborate with syllabi to help schools "grow their own". How could we offer a year that would be the equivalent of a quarter? 3 courses could be used to do that to move interested students on their chosen trajectory.
 - c. Equivalent Options for Education: for an AAS and a DCYF credential.. 20 aligned college credits. Will they allow working out of scope and sequence?
 - i. Sara: Merit is used at Wee Care - courses must be submitted through Merit with course descriptions. Merit-determined alignments. Merit is good about answering questions. Quality recognition points are used but can be confusing.

6. EDUCATION - LCC AND K12 UPDATES

- a. Josie: We are at 10 graduates this year but we had quite a few enrolled in spring ECED 105 - 18 are in ECE placements.
- b. Michelle (Kelso) runs 3 classes (70 minutes each). ECE program at Kelso is hopefully expanding. Due to the demand for health classes, Kelso will be postponing approximately 100 potential ECE students.
- c. This term, there are 25 in the childcare classes placed at elementary schools. Numbers are growing and younger students are becoming more interested.
- d. Adding another sequence would allow for staying committed to education.
- e. Longview would like to grow para certification too.
- f. Sue: We have been visiting centers and meeting new people. We are seeing a lot of students coming back for the EA Grant. We have a student from Klickitat and observations are exciting. There is a student in Washougal as well.
- g. Building confidence with the students seems to be the ideal way to recruit
- h. LCC's AAS in Education is approved. It will be starting in the fall of 2023. It is a two-year degree that feeds into our BAS in Teacher Education. This is the ideal pathway for those who are not interested in ECE.
- i. Woodland - with the new degree, their students can attend LC as apprentices with a 50% tuition reduction. The para tracks 1, 2, and 3 align with our degree requirements.
- j. New Faculty hired and will be teaching this summer: Ashleigh Krukenburg.
She will teach at all levels: ECE/TE/and EDUC
- k. We are looking into offering SPED endorsement and ELL as well.

7. **DATA:** Childcare aware report - The need for TK was explained and the new transparency was refreshing. Many questions were answered. The data supported the needs that were being met and those that were not being met.
 - a. Tabling the remainder of data due to time constraints
 - b. Data may be misleading for k12 because they use an average instead of starting wages.
 - i. Often this is used to show the gap in pay between k12 and preK. And it is different from district to district.
 8. **Upcoming Program or Community Events**
 - a. United Way meeting - There is a diverse retention level
 - b. Commencement is June 16 at KHS
 9. **Next meeting:** Thursday, 11/9/2023, 5 - 6:30 p.m.
 10. **Adjourned 6:25 p.m.**
-

Action Items:

- Get information for FAQ on ECE web pages. Jenny/Jenna - What are we missing?

Lower Columbia College provides equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, age, perceived or actual physical or mental disability, pregnancy, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, creed, religion, honorably discharged veteran or military status, or use of a trained guide dog or service animal as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act and ADA Amendment Act, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act and Washington State's Law Against Discrimination, Chapter 49.60 RCW and their implementing regulations. All inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX, access, equal opportunity and/or grievance procedures should be directed to Vice President of Foundation, HR & Legal Affairs, 1600 Maple Street, PO Box 3010, Longview, WA 98632, title9@lowercolumbia.edu, Phone number, [\(360\) 442-2120](tel:3604422120), Phone number/TTY [\(800\) 833-6388](tel:8008336388).