

FALL 2023

AUTOMOTIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

November 13th, 2023

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Lower Columbia College DTV 201

PRESENT: Tamra Gilchrist, Paul Merryman, Thomas Jenkins, Corry Kile, Gary Roeske, Randy Bailey

RECORDER: Kalisha Harris

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair, Paul Merryman opens meeting at 4:17pm

II. INTRODUCTIONS

LCC Dean Tamra Gilchrist begins introductions around the room. Kalisha Harris, new assistant to Dean Gilchrist, will be the new Admin/Recorder for Automotive Advisory Committee.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No Spring 2023 meeting due to ASE Certification self-evaluation. This was done for the application process. The ASE re-accreditation visit needs to be done by Spring Quarter 2024. The ETL (External Team Lead) and three industry experts will observe class, tour LCC's facility, review materials and inspect equipment. Employer partners must not currently be serving on the Advisory Committee. Paul Merryman said that he would be able to recommend people for this opportunity and will forward that information.

IV. INDUSTRY TRENDS

Paul Merryman – Prices are going up. Door rates have been raised two times in the last six months, they are about to go up again. Bud Clary staff are likely to see increased wages to keep pace with the market. Hiring has been challenging due to people asking for higher rates based on competition. Experienced range: \$30-\$42/hr. Pierce County is easily \$10 higher than here. Top techs in King County are around \$65/hr. Top performer (Tech) at Bud Clary Chevrolet will reach about \$174K this year (hourly & incentives included). Coming in the door/entry level seems discouraging, but you have to start somewhere and weigh growth

opportunities. Typical starting for Techs at Bud Clary is about \$80-100K/year.

V. LABOR MARKET REVIEW

- a. Automotive Service Technician and Mechanics (Discussed supplemental documents submitted by Tamra Gilchrist – Included w/ Minutes)
 - i. [WA State and SW WA \(In-demand\)](#)
 - ii. Average Salary WA State & SW WA (includes Clark County): \$58,150; 1.3% Growth.
 - iii. Average Salary Cowlitz County: \$44,782; 2.6% Growth.
 - iv. Average Salary Wahkiakum County: \$56,836; 16.7 % Growth.

VI. EDUCATION (LCC & K12)

- a. Kelso high school auto program updates
No rep present for Advisory meeting. Tamra visited recently the classroom and shared that they are interested in live work, which is not something that can be done at this time. LCC-Kelso might consider a partnership where senior/advanced students could participate in LCC classes to perform live-work.
- b. Diesel CTE High School Program @ LCC
Tamra gave up update on the local “Skills Center” style courses offered in collaboration w/ KHS but are open to all local district students. Industrial Trades program is running for a second year and this year a new Diesel Mechanic class was implemented. Currently, there are around 15 students. Courses are daily from 7:30-9:30am. All students are Juniors/Seniors and are eligible to earn CTE dual credit. We are hoping to expand the program to be Diesel/Automotive in the years ahead or explore that direction.
- c. Loss of Woodland HS Program
Program is suspended. Tamra met w/ Dean from Cascadia Tech who shared the change as some students can participate in their program in Vancouver. Woodland has not been able to pass a levy for two years in a row, which had significantly impacted programs and instruction. Currently, students are able to go to Cascadia in Vancouver for Automotive programs.
- d. Facilities and Equipment

- i. [Autel MaxiSYS MS909 Scan tool with computer module programming capabilities](#)
Gary Roeske is requesting a new scan/diagnostic tool to better accommodate class/lab needs. They would also like to be able to take on more programming and make updates to software so students can do more in-depth diagnostics & repair.
- ii. New classroom at LCC (downstairs in DTV)
Old toolroom/service manual library, has been converted into a new classroom. The furniture is in place and TV has been placed. A new computer is in the works and needed for the class to be fully operational.

Corry shared some information on VR equipment for diagnosing & working on Hybrid & Electric vehicles. The cost was approx \$75,000 plus annual updates of \$17,000. It's very expensive and not something that can be managed at this time, but may eventually be something to consider to keep up with the industry.

VII. EXPLORATION OF CAREER LAUNCH PROGRAM

a. Positioning Young Adults for Promising Careers:

Part of the Career Connect Washington initiative, [Career Launch](#) programs provide students with real-life work experience related to their classroom studies. Students graduate with skills to be competitive in the job market and with a valuable credential beyond a high school diploma. Career Connect Washington describes Career Launch as “the most intensive type of career connected learning program.” Its goal: to have 60 percent of young adults beginning in the class of 2030 participate in a career launch program.

Gov. Jay Inslee launched [Career Connect Washington](#) (CCW) in 2017 to help young people gain valuable, real-life work experience while they study. This ensures students receive not only high-quality classroom instruction, but hands-on work experience that helps them start a career with employers looking to hire. Career Connect Washington brings together higher education, business and industry leaders, government and state agencies, labor leaders, community leaders and nonprofits, and regional leaders to find ways to better link education and work. The Legislature provided funding for Career Connect Washington during the 2019 legislative session.

- b. Once a college is approved, opens opportunities for additional funding:
 - i. Development and Expansion of CL

- ii. Enrollment Growth
- iii. Capital Equipment

Tamra shared information about CL and is wanting to introduce this program to Advisory Committee. Capital Equipment is something we really want to consider, as our equipment can be extremely spendy. If we start getting our programs approved now, it would put us in a better position to start asking for endorsements next year.

c. Sample Applications:

- i. [Centralia \(Diesel\)](#)
- ii. [Lake WA \(Diesel\)](#)
- iii. [Shoreline Auto \(GM\)](#)
- iv. [Clark \(HiTECC\)](#)
- v. [Clark \(Toyota\)](#)

d. Discussion: Industry Support

- i. Paid cooperative education?

A lot of students lack confidence and are intimidated by the idea of an internship or a position in the industry they are studying. Many don't seem to be ready to consider long-term and living wage commitments and there's increased realization that the younger generations coming up, are not really prepared for the working world. They will apply for positions and not show up. Many will also job-jump if they get bored.

Tamra - there has been a similar conversation through different Advisory and planning groups and multiple industries are experiencing these same issues. Soft skills seem to be lacking along with the willingness to learn.

Thomas Jenson shared that a good periodic evaluation process, including self-evaluation, is often helpful to get them to identify strengths/weaknesses and develop plans to become better employees.

VIII. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

IX. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE):

Paul Merryman closes meeting @ 5:07pm

X. RESOURCES

- a. [ADVISORY COMMITTEE HANDBOOK](#)
- b. [LCC: Professional-Technical Advisory Committees Meeting Minutes](#)
- c. [The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act, Public Law 105-332](#)

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