

## MACHINING-MANUFACTURING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

**DATE:** December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**TIME:** 5:30-7:00 pm

**PLACE:** Lower Columbia College, VOC 112

- I. **Call to Order:** Richard Leu, chairperson, could not attend. Nathan Shephard facilitated the meeting in his absence.

- II. **Introductions**

Jennifer Hanson, USNR

Nathan Shephard - LCC, Machine Trades Instructor

Corry Torppa, CTE Director, Kalama High School

Matt Petersen, Genentech

Joe McWilliam, Kelso High School Instructor

John McWilliam, Guest and Kelso High School student

- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** [Machining-Manufacturing Advisory Board Minutes May 11, 2021. \(Three members voted Spring 2022, the remaining votes to occur virtually\).](#)

- IV. **INDUSTRY UPDATES:**

- a. **Genentech:** Matt shared that it has been challenging, over the past year and a half, to find individuals interested in applying for skilled trades positions but has seen a promising increase in applicants over the last few months. Qualified journeymen can be difficult to find but they value individuals with a background in machining, welding, millwright/maintenance who also have strong problem-solving and critical thinking. The committee discussed Perry Tech which continues to be a strong source of technical talent. A brief discussion was held around instrumentation, mechanical, automation, and maintenance needs. No one program has brought these vital areas together; however, mechatronics at PCC might be the closest model to explore. Tamra and Nathan shared that this was an area LCC plans to evaluate in the near future. Matt shared that while he has a good understanding of LCC's Machine Trades program, as a postgraduate, he was not familiar with the Advanced manufacturing curriculum. This input was appreciated and LCC will work on bringing together a focus group in the spring term to share an overview and help establish future program direction.
- b. **USNR:** Jennifer shared their recent emphasis has been on internal training promoting employees from within and having them participate in the apprenticeship/partnership with LCC. They have a combination of academic coursework and curriculum delivered via Tooling U. Nathan provided an overview of the Tooling U program. Jennifer said they had seen success with

those going through the program while also gaining hands-on experience on the job.

**V. Education Updates**

**K12 and LCC:**

Kelso shared that most classes have waitlists for CAD, woods, and construction with typical class sizes of 25-30 students. The welding program has also expanded to two instructors. Kalama also had reasonably good enrollment and Corry shared the expansion of 'Open House' activities and the importance of getting parents involved. Tamra asked, with K12 numbers being much higher than college, if there were any suggestions from the group on areas of improvement to better to increase the rate of students transitioning to LCC. Feedback included increasing college presence in the high school and the specific CTE programs. Some of the private schools attend multiple times per year and it seems like this has been an effective strategy. Tamra shared that LCC had also just hired a new CTE Dual Credit coordinator who will visit classes as well. LCC, Nathan shared that LCC is seeing more students who are currently employed in the industry but also experiencing some challenges with participation. He is still exploring options for future curriculum changes related to the 5-axis and Fusion 360. The program is also exploring the need to update Mastercam this year.

VI. Old Business: NA

VII. New Business:

- a. Exploratory questions were raised about adding more focus on maintenance in the manufacturing program and continuing to assess the need for instrumentation. The committee shared that an overview of the degree program, especially for Advanced Manufacturing, would be helpful as most were no longer familiar with the specific curriculum. Industry partners also expressed a need to better understand the equipment needed to help support the college as well. Overall, there is a need for mechatronics, automation, millwrights, mechatronics, CNC, and manual operating but no one program brings all aspects together. LCC is committed to continuing the conversation to assess the next direction for the program.

**Other:** There was interest in continuing to look at options to attend tours, but the next meeting will be determined closer to the Spring quarter.

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