



LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE 1600 Maple Street, Longview, WA 98632

AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 9TH, 2019 6 P.M. DON TALLEY BUILDING, ROOM 201

I. Meeting called to order at 6 p.m.

II. ATTENDEES

Randy Bailey, retired
Nick Burk, Kelso High School
Wayne Miller, Woodland High School
Charlie Zimmerman, Bob's Lil Car Hospital
Corry Kile, LCC
Gary Roeske, LCC

III. AGENDA ITEMS

a) Enrollment updates

Enrollment is down from 28 Fall 2018 to 19 Fall 2019. Corry Kile told the group he currently has 6 students in first year class. Gary Roeske share that he also has 6 students in his second year class. Faculty said most students in Automotive Technology track are taking their general education courses this quarter.

Nick Burk shared with the group that Kelso High School enrollment is way up, every class is full with 24 to 28 students, and KHS is moving away from only advising students toward four year degree and providing more exposure to industry and the trades.

Wayne Miller told the group there are 46 students enrolled in automotive classes at Woodland High School. All are freshmen.

Charlie Zimmerman asked if the group thought LCC's Try-A-Trade event in the spring influenced increased enrollment. General consensus is that all of the recent events focusing on exposing students to industry and the trades has influenced increased enrollment in Career and Technical Education (CTE) at the high schools.

Gary shared with the group that he had a conversation with the Toyota dealerships service manager who said he was hearing good things about LCC's program and says LCC students are coming in better prepared.

Charlie said the LCC graduate they have at Lil Car Hospital is doing a good job.

Group discussion about best age to capture students; members agreed capturing high school juniors is the best, they're ready to get their driver's license and want to bring car in to work on it; when a student is invested in his or her own car it changes the



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commitment to education; some schools require students to be sophomore or junior before they can get into CTE courses.

b) Labor market data

Labor market data from Labor Insight was shared with the group. Automotive Service Technician-Mechanic, or similar job titles, projected growth over the next 10 years is up 14.8%; 240 positions were posted in the past 12 months in Cowlitz, Clark, Lewis and Wahkiakum counties. Median annual salary is \$40,507.

Discussion among members that as automotive service technician a person can work anywhere. Gary shared that Tesla contacted him looking for students to hire.

c) Program review

Technology updates

Corry shared with members that LCC is looking at ConsuLab trainers, simulators can be built to measure drive line angles, electronic power steering, circuit parallel, and fan circuit, e.g. Randy Bailey asked if simulators can be “bugged” to challenge students’ skills. Corry confirmed that they can.

Gary told the group that LCC still needs scan tools. Classes are small now so it’s less of a problem but when enrollment improves there will be a problem.

Members believe trainers are essential for success of the program; it gives students a better idea of what they will be working with in industry. Members said scan tools are absolutely important.

Charlie asked LCC faculty to put together a wish list and Lil Car Hospital will explore what they might provide.

d) New web site

Members were shown the new industrial technology video and improved Go to Work and Automotive Technology web sites. ASE language needs to be updated at web site. Corry told the group about the radio ad he recorded for the automotive program.

IV. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

a. Career Expo

9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday Nov. 14th

Local businesses have the opportunity to share with 8th, 9th and 10th grade students what careers are available in their organization and what education is needed to be hired into those jobs. Space is limited. To sign up for this free event contact the Kelso Longview Chamber, 360-423-8400, [Link to Kelso Longview Chamber web site.](#)

b. Kelso High School Open House



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Kelso High Schools Career and Technical Education program is hosting an open house to showcase their new facilities 5 to 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1st. Students will be demonstrating skills they are learning that align with industry standards.

- c. **NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE):** Wednesday, April 22nd, 6 p.m., tentatively at Bob's Lil Car Hospital.

V. Meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.