



LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE 1600 Maple Street, Longview, WA 98632

## DIESEL, HEAVY EQUIPMENT TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

FRIDAY, OCT. 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 NOON LCC DON TALLEY BUILDING, ROOM 214

### **I. Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m.**

### **II. ATTENDEES**

Uriah Chipman, IUOE#701  
Terry Craig, ERS West  
Lucas Richardson, Swanson Bark & Wood  
Eric Thwaites, Tribeca Transport  
Kerry Tuck, DSU/Peterbilt  
Johnny Krause, DSU/Peterbilt  
Tamra Bell, LCC  
Jim Dillinger, LCC  
Barry Walther, LCC

### **III. AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **a) Enrollment update**

Fall quarter enrollment data shared with the group. Fall 2018 there were 29 students; Fall 2019 there are 27 students. Discussion about economic effect on enrollment. When the economy is good enrollment is low and vice versa; in economic downturn enrollment increases.

Tamra Bell shared information with the group about Graduation Plus, an initiative to encourage individuals to continue their education after high school. LCC is partnering more with K-12 to increase student interest in attending LCC.

Group discussion about Running Start, a program that allows junior and senior high school students to attend classes at LCC and potentially complete a two year degree at the same time they graduate high school. Lucas Richardson told the group that he got resistance from high school counselors when he pursued getting into Running Start. Discussion about financial effect Running Start has on high schools. LCC is exploring a skill center model for high schools that don't have vocational programs and recommend high school students have the opportunity to take vocational classes at LCC.

Board discussion about increased interest at a legislative level of increasing vocational education, internships, apprenticeships, and starting and finishing a career path. Johnny Krause told the group DSU/Peterbilt currently has an apprentice who is an LCC student.



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Uriah Chipman told the group that individuals with a two year degree can get two years of their IUOE apprenticeship waived. He values an apprentice's opportunity to work with an experienced mechanic and the experienced mechanic has the opportunity to share their knowledge and skill, working side by side, without the fear that a younger person is going to take their job.

### **b) Labor Market data**

Data from Labor Insight was shared with the group for the job titles Diesel Mechanic and Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver. Both show projected growth over the next 10 years of 14% and 6.9% respectively. Data was pulled for Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Clark and Lewis counties.

Group questioned wage data. Labor Insight shows median wage of just over \$42,000 for mechanics and \$68,000+ for truck drivers. Eric Thwaites said the size of the shop where mechanic works could have influence; small shops pay high wage for single mechanic. Lucas Richardson said Swanson is hiring new drivers at the same rate as senior drivers because of the demand for employees with a Class A Commercial Driver's License.

### **c) Program updates**

Barry Walther stepped into the first year student instructor role after Ken Ecklund's retirement in June. Discussion of Guided Pathways initiative with goal of getting students to choose their path early in their education and complete in a timelier manner.

Discussion of students coming in without basic skills and the amount of time spent on addressing the shortage. All students are required to take foundational classes at entry that also give them information about the resources available to them on campus – food pantry, child care, etc.

The diesel program has received additional donations of trucks and an excavator to keep moving the program forward.

Board questioned if students are allowed to run their engine after rebuild. Jim said students do run their engine but LCC also allows in frame repair.

### **d) Workforce technology grant**

LCC is pursuing a grant offered through the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) that offers \$100,000 for technology enhancement. This grant if received would allow LCC to purchase a CDL simulator. The grant requires 25% match. The addition of a simulator to the program will save wear and tear on trucks and will also provide an opportunity for industry partners to have their drivers practice skills in the simulator. Eric Thwaites offered to talk to industry colleagues to get support. Board members support this effort and see it as an important step to the success of the program, as well as expect it could increase enrollment in the program.

### **e) New web pages**



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Updated and revamped Professional/Technical web pages were shown to the group; pages include career pathway information, skills and abilities expectations, and direct link to program planners that give students the ability to research career paths.

**f) Employer survey**

Employers completed the annual Employer Feedback Survey.

**IV. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**a. Kelso High School Open House**

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. 1<sup>st</sup>. Students will be demonstrating skills they are learning that align with industry standards.

**b. Career Expo**

Kelso Longview Chamber and the Cowlitz STEM Network invite employers to participate in an event for 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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. 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Cowlitz County Conference Center.

**c. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE): TBD**

**V. Meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.**