



## GENERAL ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

### I. Meeting called to order at 4:35 p.m.

### II. ATTENDEES

#### INDUSTRY

Natasha Allen, Rightline Equipment  
Kelsey Elwess, Opsahl Dawson – Certified Public Accountants  
Sara Hegnes, Wee Care Day Care  
Richard Leu, Selway Machine  
Angela Orth, Child and Adolescent Clinic  
Anne Mette Smeenk, Child and Adolescent Clinic  
Charles Zimmerman, Bob's Lil Car Hospital

#### AGENCY

Darcy Hoffman, Workforce Southwest Washington

#### EDUCATION

Lynell Amundson, LCC  
Melissa Boudreau, Kelso School District  
Tamra Gilchrist, LCC  
Kyle Hurley, Wahkiakum School District  
Bill Ofstun, Longview School District  
Dani Trimble, LCC

### III. AGENDA ITEMS

#### a) Updates from LCC

Tamra Gilchrist shared with the group that enrollment is down 20 percent across programs on campus. Summer and fall 2021 are expected to function much like winter and spring quarters with many classes delivered online or in a hybrid format. Faculty, staff and students are looking forward to more programs reopening. She added that industrial technology programs have been going strong since last spring as essential programs were allowed to continue to operate on campus.

Dani Trimble shared that student services has been serving students remotely. More services will open up mid-July. She added that the needs of students right now are very significant including housing and food. LCC previously had a \$100,000 allocation to assist students. Between April and October 2020 Student Services has invested over \$1 million in assistance to students and expect to spend upwards of \$5 million in student aid by the end of 2022.

Tamra provided an update on ctcLink, a program that all colleges in the state are moving to that touches all processes – financial, registration, human resources. It has been challenging but staff have been doing a great job and LCC is finally in a place where processes are functioning more smoothly.



Tamra also shared that LCC has been approved to offer a second applied bachelors degree. The Bachelor's of Applied Science – Organizational Leadership and Technical Management (BAS-OLTM) is accepting applications now and will start the first cohort in the fall. LCC's goal is to have 24 to 30 students in the first group.

The Bachelor's of Applied Science – Teacher Education (BAS-TE) has its first graduating class June 2021. Though the actual graduation will be virtual there will be a small celebration in the Rose Center for the Arts.

Dani provided an update on the Guided Pathways initiative, a multi-year program that changes how students experience attending college. LCC is in its third year of the program. It involves looking at LCC's pathways and how two-year degrees connect to four-year degrees; exploration of institutional culture and expanding equity; revision of advising and career exploration; and an emphasis on outcomes and data to ensure student success.

Dani also discussed Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education funding and the need to have advisory members more involved in the processes. Schools and colleges are required to develop a Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) with stakeholders from the community in economic development, education, and employment services, among other agencies. Is the college meeting your needs? How does your feedback help inform work at the college? The CLNA will help establish tools advisory members can use to provide valuable information, access processes, and to encourage active engagement. Tamra added that this is why LCC and K-12 partners have begun combining advisory boards over the last year and provide structure in the agenda to look at the system holistically. CLNA will help continue the good work already started at LCC, she added.

Dani shared information about Worker Retraining state funds intended to help dislocated workers and added that advisory board feedback is very important to how LCC invests these resources. Advisory input does feed into program process and the program mix that leads students to in-demand careers.

Tamra gave an update of staffing changes. Ashley Cahill has been hired for the BAS-TE as tenure track faculty and overall program support. There is currently an open position for the new BAS-OLTM degree that will also have teaching and management responsibilities. She welcomed Natasha Allen on board as the new tenure track faculty in welding. She added that two faculty in the Industrial Technology Department are retiring June 2021: Kam Todd, machining, is retiring after 27 years and Randy Byrum, welding, is retiring after 15 years. Lynell Amundson is also retiring August 2021 after 24 years at the college in workforce education, corporate training and continuing education.

## **b) K-12 partner updates**

Bill Ofstun shared with the group that Longview School District has 53 career and technical education classes and another eight at the middle school level. They are



currently seeking approval to offer home and consumer life and Mark Morris High School is looking to add an agriculture program. He added that Mark Morris will be under construction for some revamping over the summer. He also added that long time teacher Jocelyn Schauer is retiring.

Melissa Boudreau told members that Kelso High School is looking at its course sequencing to better align to post-secondary courses. She added that redefining courses created an opportunity to partner with LCC to offer a pilot program that includes machining and welding instruction, building on what students have been working on at the high school level. The pilot was scheduled to begin in the fall but it may be moved forward into the first term of winter 2022. Tamra thanked Natasha Allen and David Pittsley for their role in getting donations of top of the line equipment from Miller Electric for the program and added that Miller is in complete support of the pilot. Melissa told members that Kelso is also experiencing many staffing changes, especially at the administrative level.

Kyle Hurley told the group that Wahkiakum High School students have been in the classroom four days a week. CTE programs are offered in agriculture and robotics and they are adding CTE math course and planning a "Field to Fork" program next year using the district greenhouse.

### **c) Industry partner and Professional/Technical Advisory updates**

Natasha Allen told the group that the pandemic had little affect on Rightline Equipment and they have been operating at full capacity. She added that many companies are concerned about the loss of employees from the Boomer generation and are expressing the need to get young people interested in the skilled trades.

Natasha is outgoing chair of the Welding Advisory Board. As faculty she can not serve in an advisory voting member role. Kim Rongey of Topper Floats was nominated as chair and will begin her duties Fall 2021.

Natasha shared that enrollment is down in welding due to COVID restrictions and social distancing but added that students in the class are getting jobs. She looks forward to more students being able to return to campus.

Sara Hegnes shared with the group that early childhood businesses don't take a break. They have been serving children of all ages sometimes with 20 to 30 school age children at a time in a Zoom room. She added that many families are coming back to her center. Her programs are going strong and she needs employees at Wee Care Day Care. She said it is a continuing need and demand.

Sara serves as chair of the Early Childhood Education Advisory. Getting back to in-person and hybrid is really important for early learning centers and the students they serve. She added that the group is really excited to see the first graduates from the BAS-TE degree.

Charlie Zimmerman told the group Bob's Lil Car Hospital has experienced a 40% increase in business. People are fixing cars rather than buying new vehicles. He recently hired new employees and is looking to hire another. It is often difficult to find individuals who are mechanically inclined.



Charlie serves as chair of the Automotive Technology Advisory but was unable to attend the Spring meeting. Tamra shared with the group that Automotive Technology has experienced a slight increase in enrollment this quarter and added that advisory members will be meeting in June to conduct its 2.5-year self-evaluation to maintain ASE Education Foundation Certification.

Richard Leu told the group Selway Machine has seen a 25 to 30 percent increase in business, especially in Oregon. They too are having difficulty finding replacements and see a lack of mechanical skills in many individuals.

Richard serves as chair of the Machining and Manufacturing Advisory Board.

Angela Orth said the Child and Adolescent Clinic has seen less patients but work load has increased with modifications needed due to COVID. She said they too have many open positions with no applicants.

Angela is the new chair of the Medical Assisting Advisory Board.

Anne Mette Smeenk serves as chair of the Chemical Dependency Studies Advisory. She said the board has had a difficult time getting enough people together to have a quorum. She added that the need for addiction counselors has increased significantly.

Nonnie Weaver is stepping down from her director role for the Chemical Dependency Studies program at LCC and Leszek Cromwell has stepped into that role effective spring 2021. His contact information is [lscromwell@lowercolumbia.edu](mailto:lscromwell@lowercolumbia.edu), 360-442-2342.

Kelsey Elwess told the group that Opsahl Dawson is expanding. Working virtually has grown business. They are now in 10 states and recently hired a WSU intern that is working from Long Beach, WA. Kelsey is chair of the Accounting and Business Advisory Board.

Darcy Hoffman told the group she works directly with industry through Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW). She welcomed LCC's new employment navigator on board. Dani shared with the group that Veronica De Jesus will be working to connect students with employment. Industry partners are encouraged to reach out to her at [vdejesus@lowercolumbia.edu](mailto:vdejesus@lowercolumbia.edu). Darcy added that WSW's areas of focus are construction, manufacturing, health care and technology. They partner with many agencies: economic development, education, industry and community. She said there are many job openings in the region and WSW is currently working to shape a quality job strategy that focuses on reliable work schedules and good environment. They expect to launch a blueprint of the plan in the fall.

#### **IV. UPCOMING PROGRAM EVENTS**

The nomination of a new chairperson for the General Advisory Board is on hold until Fall 2021.

#### **V. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.**