



LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE 1600 Maple Street, Longview, WA 98632

GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28th, 2019 LCC Student Center Conference Rooms

I. CALL TO ORDER

Natasha Allen, chair, called the meeting to order at 5:29. The agenda was adjusted in order to hear updates on Worker Retraining Funds before committee reports were given.

II. ATTENDEES:

Todd Dodgin, City of Longview, Information Technology/Computer Science
Kelsey Elwess, Opsahl Dawson, Accounting/Business
Bryce Lemmons, Interstate Wood/Signature Transport, Diesel Technology/CDL
Richard Leu, Selway Machine Tools, Machining
Ann Mette-Smeenk, Child & Adolescent Clinic, Chemical Dependency Studies
Tim Root, Westlake Chemical, Manufacturing
Melissa Selzler, PeaceHealth, Nursing
Charlie Zimmerman, Bob's Lil Car Hospital, Automotive Technology
Lynell Amundson, LCC
Dani Trimble, LCC

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicole Davis, Longview Urology, Medical Assisting
Sara Hegnes, Wee Care Day Care, Early Childhood Education
Nate Hockett, Cowlitz County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Justice
Kathy Miller, Red Canoe Credit Union, Business Technology

III. AGENDA ITEMS

a) Advisory Committee Overview

Members were provided the General Advisory Committee Operational Procedures document. Natasha talked to the group about the importance of industry involvement in LCC professional/technical advisory boards in order to ensure programs meet needs of industry and students come out of their programs with the skills necessary to be successful.

b) Review minutes from April 17, 2018, meeting

Minutes were reviewed with two corrections: time of day meeting was called to order and the spelling of Dani Trimble's name. Richard Leu moved to approve minutes with corrections; Charlie Zimmerman seconded the motion. Approved by committee.



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c) Worker Retraining Update/Plan for the coming year

Dani Trimble shared information about Worker Retraining Funds. Gave an overview of how the program works and how colleges receive the funding. Members were provided a Worker Retraining document with a graphic showing enrollment trends. Discussion about engaging industry partners in decision making process and the importance of industry input, General Advisory Board's main function is to review Worker Retraining plan and provide input annually; essential element of Worker Retraining is to ensure outcomes of programs are relevant to the workforce.

Natasha asked about intent of Worker Retraining dollars, what type of education is pursued/supported by these funds. Dani shared that funds are intended for skilled trades, vocational or professional programs, intended to get people to work.

Committee members asked about short term certificates, if they were available for funding; how can students get into industry/trades skills training without large amount of general education courses as a part of a student's program; discussion amongst committee about the value of short term certificates that can get people to work more quickly.

Dani continued discussion about agencies working more closely together, developing a plan that allows funds to be leveraged so individuals have multiple paths to employment and people get the training they need. Discussion about challenges of different types of funding provided to agencies who each have a set of outcomes that often conflict with another agency's outcomes. Dani shared that a person from WorkSource/Employment Security will be housed full-time at LCC beginning in October 2019.

Worker Retraining Guidelines for 2019-2020 have not yet been release.

d) Advisory Committee Briefings

Chemical Dependency Studies – Ann Mette-Smeenck shared information regarding changes coming January 2020 that will require chemical dependency treatment and mental health to be integrated, concerns about how the integration will work due to the clear lack of understanding regarding the treatment of each issue; it will impact programs and there will need to be coursework adjustments at LCC. Natasha Allen praised the Mental Health First Aid course she took at LCC and encouraged others to take it when/if they get a chance.

CDS committee discussed concerns about the need for more intensive internships for students but there is an expectation student's will volunteer their time and no pay or low compensation is an issue for students; creates a lot of turnover.

CDS committee needs more members and greater input from this sector.

Automotive Technology – Charlie Zimmerman discussed low enrollment in automotive program and students failing due to attendance issues. Discussed increasing technical



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skills needed in the automotive industry and challenge to get qualified applicants. Large number of retirements coming in this industry and students aren't getting the level of technical, hands on training needed. Brief discussion amongst General Advisory about options for internships, job shadows. Natasha shared that she hires welding students part-time and then can hire or recommend to other welding industries based on their experience with her company.

Charlie shared information about LCC's Maintenance and Light Repair Certificate of Proficiency. The certificate was approved by curriculum in July and is being considered for I-Best program at the college, which provides a mentor instructor for students to help with any general education challenges (specifically math and communication skills).

Information Technology/Computer Science - Todd Dodgin shared information about LCC faculty eliminating multiple certificates and combining them into a single degree which allows students to stay on track and doesn't affect their financial aid. Mentioned the challenge with the IT degree taking a majority of students three years to complete, what adjustments can be made to reduce time to completion is being explored. Briefly discussed moving target in the IT world, new technology, "what's hot and sexy", how do you quickly make adjustments in IT education; shared IT/CS committee recommendation to add business analytics education and network cybersecurity, and growing need for these skills in this sector.

Machining – Richard Leu shared information about the new CNC Machine that was purchased for the Machining program; portion of funds came from the LCC Foundation. Discussed skill gaps and generational issues in the workplace. Students don't know simple "right tighty, lefty loosey" concept; don't know how to hold a wrench. Expressed concern of lacking maintenance skills taught to machinists, a skill he needs in his company.

Brief discussion amongst General Advisory about general lack of skills needed in the trades by kids coming out of high school; lack of desire to gain hands on skills; increased minimum wage at service sector jobs influencing reduced enrollment/continuing education in a trades/vocational career field, examples of daughters/sons making \$17 per hour Trader Joe's, Starbucks, etc.

Diesel Technology/CDL – Bryce Lemmons shared information regarding two new courses developed to address basic knowledge of tools, personal protective equipment, and basic shop skills in response to new students coming into program lacking these skills. Shared that committee always has good turn out with industry representation. Discussion at the Fall Quarter meeting about recruiting in the middle schools and high



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schools to encourage students to explore this career path; would like to see more women and minorities in the field.

Bryce shared information regarding the CDL Simulator campaign, currently at \$12,000, and how important this equipment will be to the program, saving wear and tear on trucks by allowing students to get experience with shifting, braking, observation and weather condition affected driving in a simulated environment.

Welding – Natasha Allen shared that Welding program enrollment is down but graduating student numbers continue to be strong. She regularly visits middle schools and high schools to share information about welding as a good career choice, gives students opportunity to experience welding with simulation tools. Shared information about the 2019 Welding Competition held at LCC in February with 36 students competing.

Business and accounting – Kelsey Elwess also shared that enrollment is down in both Business and Accounting programs, mentions number of students choosing to pursue their education at 4 year colleges especially if they plan to become a Certified Public Accountant. Her firm has hired LCC students. She shared information about mentorship program at the Vancouver office, a shorter term program with students from WSU especially at tax time. LCC's internship is more intensive and students have participated at local CPA firms.

Discussed LCC faculty working to incorporate soft skills across certificate and degree programs, developing communication skills and incorporating teamwork into the program.

Brief mention of LCC completing development of Online Business Degree that rolled out Winter Quarter.

Nursing – Melissa Selzler shared information about the Nursing program changing to a six quarter program instead of a seven quarter program; coursework adjustments made so students get bachelor's degree in four years instead of five after completing two years at LCC. Discussed need for clinical instructors and the challenge due to the requirements, e.g. master's degree, clinical experience, etc.

LCC Nursing Department has developed/adopted a criminal history disclosure form that students must complete at the start of the program. This is to ensure students are permitted at clinical sites and alleviates their degree being withheld because of nondisclosure of criminal history.

Manufacturing – Tim Root shared information about plans for a focus group/advisory board that will be looking at LCC's Advanced Manufacturing degree and pathway



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certificates. He discussed manufacturing facing the same challenges as other sectors, e.g. facing many retirements, need for skilled workers.

IV. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

a. SEMI High Tech U – April 2, 3, 4, 2019

SEMI High Tech U is a three-day program for students to learn more about careers in high tech industries. Students will work directly with tech professionals, participate in fun workshops, and hear about different pathways from school to work. Transportation, supplies, food and fun are all provided. Free for High School students grades 9 – 12. Tim Root expressed interest in Westlake Chemical participating in this program again in the near future.

b. Try-A-Trade-- Friday, May 17, 2019

LCC Career Connected Learning and our partners invite students to participate in Try-a-Trade! Explore different careers and training opportunities in our Auto, Diesel, Machine, & Welding labs. Starting from 8th grade and up, students will partner up with LCC faculty & students to build, make, and experiment through hands-on activities. Lunch provided! Free! Bryce Lemmons, Natasha Allen, Richard Leu and Charlie Zimmerman all expressed interest in participating.

c. Other Business

Information was shared with committee about the new Multi-craft Trades Technician, fully online Business Degree and the recently approved Applied Bachelor of Science-Teacher Education.

Information was also shared with committee regarding LCC's budget issues and drop in enrollment. Two action items are occurring to address these issues: program viability studies and where efficiencies can be found across campus. Committee members questioned Running Start practices, what courses are students allowed to register in, issues with getting incorrect information at the high schools regarding programs students can get into, recommended that LCC conduct more information sessions so that students and parent know what programs students can get into, specific interest in vocational/trades coursework which is often misrepresented as ineligible for Running Start. Natasha often visits high schools and middle schools and

d. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE): Thursday, May 2nd, 5:30 p.m. LCC Student Center Conference Rooms.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Richard Leu moved to adjourn at 6:45, Bryce Lemmons seconded.