



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 3:30 P.M. VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

I. Meeting called to order at 3:39 p.m.

II. ATTENDEES

Mark Rhodes, Red Canoe Credit Union
Randy Webster, Cowlitz County
Bill Ofstun, Longview School District
Stefan Rijnhart, LCC
David Rosi, LCC
Lynell Amundson, LCC

III. AGENDA ITEMS

a) Updates from LCC

David Rosi told the group that LCC is redesigning many of its career and technical education pathways with the intent to enable students to complete certificates and degrees within six quarters. David told the group that many students take more than two years to complete their degree taking 15 credits or more per quarter.

Now all freshmen take a two-credit preparatory course, College 101. Information Technology (IT) has IT100 that covers the fundamentals and includes the CompTIA exam.

Stefan Rijnhart told members that the changes align with Guided Pathways, a grant LCC obtained to work toward building greater success and completion for students. The addition of the fundamentals courses is making good progress toward students' successful completion.

Students are given the opportunity to work in their field while obtaining college credits. Many are placed at school districts, city or county offices, health care facilities and in private industry. Students that need additional help typically work on campus.

David shared with the group that enrollment is down. There are currently 13 to 16 students in the program. Prior to the COVID pandemic there were 30 to 40 students. Many students are going to work while continuing to work on their education.

b) State of the industry

Group discussion about the continued need for students to work in desktop support. Both Randy Webster and Mark Rhodes said their businesses regularly need front desk IT support. Both said LCC is serving students well by having CompTIA certificates as a part of it program.



Desktop computers and laptop computers continue to be the major format of computers used in industry.

David and Stefan shared that LCC recently added a course that addresses capturing “big data” from an IT aspect.

Customer service and communication continue to be top needed skills, according to industry members. Writing skills are also important, Mark told the group, when completing help desk tickets.

c) Industry partner updates

Randy told the group the county has been looking at efficiencies while employees continue to work remotely. While there have been concerns, he told the group the county is seeing many efficiencies and productivity while employees work remotely. Mark said that while some employees are working on site many continue to work remotely and there has been no noticeable decrease in productivity. He expects to see continued remote work.

Mark said he expects to see jobs rebound. Many employers are looking for employees with some experience with computer/network security.

Randy agreed that some form of knowledge or skill with network and computer security is a plus when individuals begin looking for employment.

d) K-12 partner updates

Bill Ofstun told the group that online education has “taken off”. He doesn’t expect to see education completely return to “brick and mortar”. He also shared that he is seeing a significant shift in how students are accessing curriculum. Many textbooks are in an online format and assignments are being deployed electronically. This enables students to access coursework if they happen to miss a class.

He added that Longview is dedicating one teacher per grade to continue to deliver online learning.

Bill also told the group the school district is looking for multiple pathways for students - networking, database development – hoping to pair classes that lead students to dual credit opportunities with LCC.

David told the group that staff just finished reviewing coursework from school district for articulation consideration: web design, programming, introduction to information technology.

IV. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

Science Olympiad will occur virtually April 24th and 25th.

V. Meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.