



LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE 1600 Maple Street, Longview, WA 98632

MACHINING-MANUFACTURING ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCT. 22ND, 2019 5:15 P.M. LCC VOCATIONAL BUILDING, ROOM 112

I. Meeting called to order at 5:15 p.m.

II. ATTENDEES

Richard Leu, Selway Machine
Lyle Lovingfoss, Nippon Dynawave
Jim Peters, Waite Specialty Machine
Matt Petersen, Genentech
Greg Somero, Williams Precision Machine
Frank Van Liew, Western Machine Works
Jon Wagner, community member
Nathan Shepherd, LCC
Kam Todd, LCC

III. AGENDA ITEMS

a) Enrollment update

There are 17 students in the Fall Quarter 2019 Machining program. Kam Todd told board members that LCC has the capacity to have 36 students at any one time; 18 students per instructor. Enrollment is 30% below where it should be. Manufacturing enrollment is critically low. Discussion about technical programs across the state experiencing low enrollment. Richard Leu questioned if young people are choosing high tech careers instead. Member discussion about employers hurting for employees and willing to hire without formal education, state of economy effect on enrollment – when economy is good enrollment is down and vice versa.

Kam Todd told the group he would like to see industry as a whole market machining and manufacturing as a viable career; consider developing TV ads like Boeing and some of the labor unions do (electricians, ironworkers).

Lyle Lovingfoss told the group that industry used to be able to poach skilled labor from other mills but those days are going away and they are experiencing greater and greater difficulty finding people.

Frank Van Liew told the group that if a young person walks in the door, shows up on time, is consistent and reliable, they will offer them a job and pay for them to go to school.



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Member discussion about difficulty of getting young people to think about getting a job in industry and encourage LCC to take an industry partner with them into the high schools to share information about the viable careers they can find in machining and manufacturing. Also need to get word out to parents about the family wage jobs available to young people who go into these fields.

Matt Peterson shared with the group that many young people aren't aware of the opportunities if they gain machining, production, welding skills. Not all industries are out on a dirty factory floor. He added that his company is a clean shop manufacturing pharmaceutical grade products.

Many employees are demanding higher wages because they know there is no one coming up to replace them.

Discussion about efforts to strengthen Career and Technical Education and K-12/Post-secondary relationships, opportunities for earning credits while in high school and getting a leg up when they get to college.

Nathan Shepherd shared with the group that he currently has some younger students in machining that have been involved in Robotics Club or Lego Bricks at their high schools. They are the highest achievers, he added, and think out of the box to solve problems.

b) Labor Market Data

Labor market data was pulled from Labor Insight, a labor research platform for Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, Lewis and Clark counties for the positions of machinist, production technician and production worker. Each job has expected growth over the next 10 years of 3.6%, 6.2% and 12.1% respectively. Annual salaries for these types of jobs in Washington at the top level pay from just under \$45,000 to \$101,000 – on 10% average above national annual salaries.

c) Program updates

Nathan and Kam shared information about new equipment added to machining and manufacturing programs:

- ACER 14x40 manual lathe
- LUDECA XT440 laser alignment system

Discussion by the group about equipment. Frank asked if programs have difficulty getting equipment. Kam said LCC's shop is high end but manufacturing needs hands-on trainers. Group discussed ways for industry to get involved with donations to enhance manufacturing lab and environment and types of trainers. Kam told the group LCC would like to have vibration analysis tool as add on to laser alignment tool, bearings trainer, and programmable logic controllers trainer.



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Manufacturing pathways/New web pages

New web sites were shared with the group and the new Professional/Technical video was shown. Board members praised LCC's efforts for looking for ways to reach out to more individuals.

d) Employer survey

Members completed the Employer Feedback Survey.

e) Member news

Richard Leu told the group that HAAS has come up with certification program for operators in partnership with Selway Machine. He is working with Kam to look at the curriculum, make any necessary improvements, and develop an assessment for the program. LCC would become the testing site. Richard said there is potential for the certification to be used along the entire West Coast.

Group discussion about the need for individuals with a breadth of knowledge – electrical and instrumentation, machining, welder. Lyle Lovingfoss told the group Nippon needs people with multiple skills. Members agreed that having a broad set of skills makes an individual a much more valued employee.

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. 1st. 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 8th, 9th and 10th 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. 14th, at the Cowlitz County Conference Center.

c. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE): Date to be determined, April 2020 timeline. Richard Leu checked in with Rightline Equipment and they have agreed to host.

V. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.