



MACHINING-MANUFACTURING ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, DEC. 8TH, 2020, VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

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

II. ATTENDEES

Jim Peters, Waite Specialty Machine
Richard Leu, Selway Machine Tools
Brian Barnes, Weyerhaeuser Longview Lumber
Ben Weist, Weyerhaeuser Longview Lumber
Matt Petersen, Genentech
Alyssa Joyner, Workforce Southwest Washington (WSW)
Victoria Pruett, WorkSource
Nathan Shepherd, LCC
Kam Todd, LCC
Tamra Gilchrist, LCC
Lynell Amundson, LCC

III. AGENDA ITEMS

a) Updates from LCC

Enrollment, class schedule

Nathan Shepherd and Kam Todd shared with attendees that the machining and manufacturing students were allowed on campus during Spring Quarter unlike many other programs because the programs are classified as essential. Enrollment however they added is drastically down, the worst Kam has seen in 27 years.

Alyssa Joyner asked about class size. Both Nathan and Kam have four students, a total of eight for both first- and second-year students.

Brian Barnes asked about class size prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Kam and Nathan shared that machining typically had 12 to 15 students in the first year of the program and 12 to 16 in the second year. Alyssa asked about class capacity. LCC faculty said pre-COVID they could have up to 18 students per instructor. Now they are limited to 10 students in the manual machining program and six in the CNC program.

Tamra Gilchrist shared that the college is down across all programs. Enrollment was down 18% Fall Quarter and is currently down 30% prior to the start of Winter Quarter 2021. She encouraged attendees to share ideas for increasing enrollment and suggestions for reaching out the middle school and high school students.

Jim Peters asked what types of funding or grants might be available to help students with tuition, is retraining an option? Tamra said unemployment hasn't dropped as much



as expected and that people are getting other funding due to federal dollars that have been rolled out to the states.

Board discussion of students not wanting to take a chance and attend in class due to COVID-19 or people taking advantage of increased unemployment funds, not pursuing employment at this time, and taking advantage of the waiver of the job search requirement.

Kam doesn't expect to see measurable improvement until Fall 2021. With the roll out of the COVID vaccine, improved confidence level of students, and as employers continue to experience crunch for workforce it will be an opportunity for individuals to begin seeking a viable career.

Discussion continued about the expectation of expanding worker retraining and dislocated worker funds for the 2021-2022 year.

b) Industry partner updates

Business and industry partners will share information regarding their current status and how they are working during the current environment.

Richard Leu said his company works with employers that are in desperate need of CNC operators and machinists. His company did see a drop in sales at the start of the pandemic but are seeing a bit of an improvement.

Ben Weist told the group Weyerhaeuser Longview Lumber has experienced record sales and high demand. They continue to have a hard time finding employees. Brian added that finding people in the skilled trades craft is difficult. They have been providing on the job training when they find anyone coming in with a good attitude.

Weyerhaeuser Longview Lumber is currently working at building/rebuilding an apprentice program and have been exploring several courses at LCC.

All industry partners shared how they are mitigating the virus during the pandemic – face shields, wellness checks, social distancing, etc.

Victoria Pruett shared that WorkSource has funding for apprenticeship or internship training for dislocated workers that became available in October.

Alyssa shared that WSW is partnering with the Columbia Willamette Workforce Collaborative to host virtual hiring events. The next is scheduled for Jan. 27th and 50 spots are available for employers

c) LCC updates and next steps

Plans for Winter Quarter 2021

LCC staff shared that Winter Quarter will function much like fall and the remainder of the academic year will remain mostly online. Machining and manufacturing will continue to have classes on campus following COVID-19 practices – masks, social distancing, regular temperature checks.

Kam shared with the group that packets have been put together for the machining program with flyers, machine cleaners, business cards, "Get a Degree. Get a Job." LCC appreciates any help getting the packets out.



Discussion continued about using social media to get the word out about the program. Board members suggested focusing on capabilities of CNC machining, 3D printing, learning computer aided drafting with multiple software programs. Matt offered to assist with social media outreach along with LCC faculty to help energize interest in the machining/manufacturing sector. Members also encouraged reaching out to more businesses in the manufacturing field.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) at Kelso High School is seeking reapproval for its Industrial Math course to its CTE programs of study.

Industrial Math emphasizes basic skills in applied mathematics designed to support students entering the vocational/technical work force of tomorrow. The focus is real world problem solving that students carry to their specific careers. Although the use of math in the workplace is primary, emphasis is given to the critical and creative thinking process as students look to strengthen their use of arithmetic concepts. 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.

Understanding industrial math concepts is a crucial skill required of these jobs. Based on this information advisory members unanimously approve the high school course frameworks for Industrial Math CIP Code 279991.

Kam shared information with advisory members in response to questions about online training and apprentice development about companies currently using ToolingU, a learning management system that provides machining, manufacturing, safety and leadership training. LCC's machinist students use this tool as part of their coursework. Richard shared with the group that his company uses ToolingU for training and certification of service technicians. Other local companies are also using ToolingU for training current employees.

Several members expressed interest in reviewing ToolingU content to see how it might work for upskilling their employees. All also said this is a great option for providing training to employees and developing foundational skills. LCC faculty will reach out to members to schedule opportunities for industry partners to review the online learning platform.

V. Meeting adjourned 6:08 p.m.

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