



LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE 1600 Maple Street, Longview, WA 98632

MACHINING ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, May 7th, 2019 5:15 p.m. Vocational Building, Room 114

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

II. ATTENDEES

Brian Phipps, Weyerhaeuser Lumber
Rachel Greenen, Sigma Design
Jim Peters, Waite Specialty Machine
Greg Somero, Williams Precision Machine
Jon Wagner, retired machinist/LCC adjunct
Kam Todd, LCC
Nathan Shepherd, LCC
Lynell Amundson, LCC

III. AGENDA ITEMS

a) Professional/Technical Advisory Board overview

Lynell Amundson gave a brief overview of advisory board functions and expectations for LCC's Professional/Technical programs.

b) Program updates

- **Enrollment**

Nathan Shepherd shared that enrollment is down in the Machining Program as well as majority of programs campus wide. Continue to get strong students but not as many as previous years. More females are enrolling and demographics over past two years have become more diverse.

Kam Todd told board members enrollment is cyclical; when the economy is strong enrollment is down. He's seen this occur several times over the years.

Jim Peters told the board many shops are hurting for skilled employees and will hire people and just train them to do only as much as is needed. Board discussion about when economy improves these types of employees end up getting laid off but the hope is a spark has been lit and they will take the opportunity to get more training and increase their skill set.

Jim said Waite pays for education and training for employees. They have hired many LCC students; Jim relies on faculty recommendations, appreciates the input; important for college to have relationship with industry.



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- **Marketing**

LCC is actively recruiting students. New pamphlets shared with board. Discussion continued about outreach activities at youth employment events in Portland and Clark County Even Center; upcoming Try A Trade event; visits to LCC by elementary and middle school students; digital ad at the local bowling alley; plans to develop coaster that will be distributed to taverns, restaurants, etc. Board members supported the idea of a coaster as marketing tool, “very smart”. Rachel Greenen talked about cross marketing by developing video at Sigma Design with an LCC graduate they currently have employed and posting at social media sites.

Board discussion about importance of middle school and high school students getting exposure to what machining is, what a machinist does.

- **Cooperative Education/Internships**

Nathan shared information with the board about more programs moving toward model of offering cooperative education/internship as part of graduation requirement; can employers accommodate. Board members interested in learning more about what this would mean for them, time commitment, and expectations.

c) New business/discussion

Lengthy discussion by board about need to expose kids to the trades. Rachel commented that she hears from young people interested in mechanical engineering, then they get into machine shop and learn that they can make parts, don't have to buy them ... young people need opportunities to experience building things, fixing things. Suggestion to give students pieces of robot, have them build it, tease them with idea that they can build the whole thing not just one piece. Educate young people about good paying jobs in manufacturing, the trades.

Kam and Nathan told members students in machining program build tools, parts, and keep them in toolbox for use later in program.

Employers struggling to hire machinists. Sigma Design is offering paid internship for someone really interested in machining work. Kam mentioned two students scheduled to graduate in June.

Discussion by board about changes coming to the industry – rapid printing, different materials (metals, titanium, stainless, carbon), laser fusing – rapidly changing technology. Most local machine shops aren't using this technology yet; always need for manual machinists.

Jim Peters praised the new Multicraft Trades Certificate for offering introduction to a little bit of everything – welding, machining, manufacturing.

LCC will be getting a new manual lathe in the near future; replacement for older model.



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LCC has developed an apprenticeship program with USNR in Woodland.

IV. UPCOMING PROGRAM OR COMMUNITY EVENTS

- a. Try A Trade May 17th
- b. NEXT MEETING (DATE/TIME/PLACE): 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 22nd

V. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.