



# Washington Association of Collegiate Agriculture & Natural Resource Educators (WACANE)

**Friday April 26, 2013**  
**Boardroom, Wenatchee Valley College**  
**7:45am – 2:00pm**

*WACANE Members in Attendance:*

Kathleen Perillo, Clark College  
George Ruddell, Wenatchee Valley College  
Trent Ball, Yakima Valley Community College (via ITV)  
George Klein, Walla Walla Community College  
William Griffith, Walla Walla Community College

*Others in Attendance:*

Mike Swan, Walla Walla Community College  
Patricia Hurin, Walla Walla Community College

## ***Welcome & Introductions***

Mike Swan, Interim Agriculture Center of Excellence Director, welcomed WACANE members and thanked them for making time to attend the meeting. Each member introduced themselves and described their degree program.

## ***Action Items***

The May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting minutes were reviewed.

## ***Agriculture Center of Excellence Updates & Activities***

Mike presented an update on administration changes at Washington State University.

Patricia Hurin summarized the Agriculture Center of Excellence's activities.

Within the University of Washington-led, Advanced Hardwood Biofuels Northwest initiative, Agriculture Center of Excellence (ACE) continues its role as a co-lead, with Oregon State University, on the Education Team. In February 2013, Washington's State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) formally approved the Associate of Applied Arts and Sciences degree (AAAS) in Bioenergy Operations. Draft articulation agreements with Oregon State University and the University of Washington will allow students transfer credit on completion on an Associate in Science: Option I – Life Sciences degree which utilizes the new Bioenergy Operations courses. The new educational program, based at Walla Walla

Community College, is composed of six new courses which will be offered online and integrated with applied labs/projects. Interested Community and Technical Colleges in the Pacific Northwest will sequence the Bioenergy Operations courses with programs from their existing course offerings.

The Agriculture Center of Excellence (ACE) continues to facilitate the creation of a model program of study preparing students for careers in the Agriculture and Natural Resource industries. ACE personnel, Community and Technical College faculty, and secondary Agricultural Science Instructors are collaborating to advance a program of study directed at providing a method for Washington State students to earn agriculture course credit while in high school. Currently in development are the Animal Systems, Plant Systems, and Power, Structural and Technical Systems pilot tests. ACE staff facilitates development of the test expectations, the percentage which each expectation represents in an assessment, choosing test bank questions to match expectations, the type of question used, and writing additional questions as needed. Insight provided by Washington State's Agricultural Science Instructors has become indispensable in all development stages. The Plant Systems pilot assessment is available on the third-party, NOCTI, website. The Animal Systems pilot test is being reviewed. The Power, Structural and Technical Systems assessment will be available in the fall of 2013. The Natural Resource Systems assessment is in the initial development stage.

The Agriculture Center of Excellence is refining and developing methods to serve as a one-stop source of information for industry, employment and high school counselors, and educators. ACE has improved its annually produced Agricultural Occupations Quick Guide which is available on our website. The Quick Guide illustrates the information related to current availability for in-demand jobs for Washington State Agriculture and Natural Resource careers. ACE designed a Job *Postings* Page for industry partners to post available employment opportunities at no cost. ACE hosts link to Agriculture, Food processing, and Natural Resource Skill Standards on its website. A "Bioenergy" tab on its navigation menu to provide links to skill standards which are being developed through the Advanced Hardwood Biofuels Northwest Initiative.

The Agriculture Center of Excellence is upgrading and designing methods to serve as an information entry point for prospective students and job seekers. The Program Guide is updated, annually, to match students' Agriculture and Natural Resource educational program interests with Washington State Community and Technical Colleges educational programs. The Program Guide is organized by Agriculture and Natural Resource Career Clusters which offer direct links to post-secondary program degrees at Community and Technical Colleges. The 2012-2013 Program Guide is available in a hardcover version. Another method developed by ACE which connects high school students with Community and Technical Colleges are Interest Cards. Interest cards are distributed to students during high school visits, conventions, and trade shows. Students can list three (3) Community and Technical Colleges where they are interested in enrolling. With their permission, the student contact information emailed to the selected Agriculture and Natural Resource educational departments to follow up with the students.

### ***Feedback and Discussion***

The Agriculture & Natural Resource Guide and Interest Cards information led to a discussion centered on recruiting high school students to Community and Technical College agriculture career educational programs. High school Freshmen and Sophomore students seemed to be the focus of recruitment efforts in the past. Members advised: the target of future promotional efforts should be high school Juniors and Seniors; high school visits should move to the Fall when students are considering post-secondary educational programs; recruiters should discuss Agriculture and Natural Resource career programs with high school students in science classes; and high school counselors need current industry career education and workforce information. Students, counselors, parents, and instructors need to be informed about the extensive number of career choices in Agriculture and Natural Resources outside of production agriculture.

Mike explained the progress of Curriculum Assessment Testing (C.A.T.) Program of Study. Agricultural Science Instructors attending the State FFA Career Development Event for Agricultural Mechanics met and discussed the Power, Structural and Technical Systems blueprint. Mike had asked the Agricultural Science Instructors to list the Career and Technical Education (CTE) areas which they taught in their Junior and Senior classes. ACE personnel are making every attempt to align the C.A.T. tests with Agriculture and Natural Resource high school curriculum in Washington State. CTE career frameworks from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction were handed out to WACANE members. They discussed the educational gaps between high schools, Community and Technical Colleges, and universities in Washington State. The C.A.T. project is one type of pathway to meet the educational needs of incoming students at Community and Technical Colleges (CTCs) while focusing on lessons taught at the high school level. Members agreed the C.A.T. tests need to be designed for Junior and Senior high school students, developed in consideration of CTC introductory course requirements, and tied to entry level industry skills. The CTCs are asking the state's high schools to "raise the bar" and the successful educational programs at high schools should be promoted. WACANE members recommend that Agriculture and Natural Resource educators become leaders in tying current industry skill requirements to all facets of the high school, CTCs, and university career education pathways. As Washington State's high schools "raise the bar", CTCs need to step up and meet university requirements. Questions were: Are we ready for the incoming students from high school with a strong Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) curriculum? How can we service a larger role in encouraging STEM courses at the high school level? Are we meeting the needs of employers?

The C.A.T. Plant Systems blueprint was handed out and members were asked to evaluate the test objectives as related to their program's pathway with comments sent to ACE. The timeline for C.A.T. test development was shared. Plant Systems assessment is currently available and Animals Systems is being reviewed with testing to continue in the fall of 2013. The development of the Power, Structural and Technical Systems assessment will proceed with a pilot test in the fall of 2013. This led to a discussion related to the validity of the assessment. Members agreed that students could take the test at area Community and Technical College testing centers which can become a recruiting method for those institutions. It was suggested that information about the C.A.T. program be shared with high school principals and parents to increase interest in the project. Members discussed scheduling a time for Agricultural Science Instructors at secondary and post-secondary levels to meet and discuss the C.A.T. program to increase interest. This meeting might be instructor training or workshops related to best practices in Agriculture and Natural Resource curriculum with WACANE members taking a larger role. The Plant and Soils Lab Manuals developed by past WACANE members was distributed. Members discussed generating an Agribusiness, Animal Science, or Power Systems Lab Manual in the coming year. A Natural Resource Lab Manual was selected as the next project to encourage participation in WACANE from Agriculture and Natural Resource CTC members from Western Washington.

The WACANE members discussed arranging a summer conference. A topic for the forum could be centered on sharing curriculum, methods, what works and what doesn't. Part of the agenda could showcase two or three Agriculture and Natural Resource programs in Washington State at high school and CTC levels. Another area of consideration could encompass sharing on line teaching methods and providing additional on line classrooms skills for CTC instructors. The members want to include industry partners in a meeting. The discussion must show "value" for attendees and will validate sharing opportunities between instructors. The conference could be held on a Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during April or May. The forum could be targeted at various locations around Washington State with industry partners in the area invited.

Mike posed the question, "What do you need from the Agriculture Center of Excellence? What should we be doing?" Member suggestions were: ACE needs to define its vision/mission, a one place stop for Agricultural Science instructors, resources, publicize collaborative efforts, investigate internships, solicit more industry

input, marketing the “Face” of agriculture, and reaching out to CTC educational programs in Western Washington. Additional suggestions from the WACANE members included: Program Guide changes/adjustments from CTCs should be sent to ACE; a listserv for WACANE members; provide a leadership tree/structure at State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC); develop an online component for sharing CTC instructional curriculum; reevaluate the method(s) used by ACE to promote Agriculture and Natural Resource career education programs; and encourage CTCs to adapt curriculum to other industry workforce skill needs when possible.

***Next Meeting***

The next WACANE Meetings will be scheduled for a virtual meeting in October of 2013 and an in-person meeting in April of 2014. ACE personnel will contact members as to the day and time of meetings.