



Center of Excellence Advisory Board Meeting

Monday June 17th, 2013

Water & Environmental Center, Walla Walla Community College

11:30pm – 1:30pm, Working Lunch

Advisory Board Members in Attendance:

Stewart Padelford, Dean Farrens, Leslie Hammer, and Michelle Mann

Others in Attendance:

Mike Swan, LaKatherine Stanger, Patricia Hurin, Don Miller, and Angel Reyes

Welcome & Introductions

Mike Swan welcomed Advisory Board Members and asked each member to introduce themselves and who they represent on the Advisory Board. Stewart Padelford representative of Washington's FFA Foundation, and Becky Wallace representative of OSPI in place of Wayne Gilman; are official new designated Advisory Board Members, as well as Michelle Mann newly assigned representative of the Walla Walla Work Source Office. Invitations were sent out and accepted by Becky and Stewart in May 2013.

Action Items

The December 2012 meeting minutes were reviewed by the Advisory Board members. Leslie moved to approve the minutes and Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Skills Gap Forum was discussed and Leslie approved the Forum for a meeting, and Dean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. AWB published notes that will be filed and used as meeting minutes for March 2013.

Center of Excellence Updates & Activities

The College sent out an official announcement of Vacancy for the Director of the Agriculture Center of Excellence. First review date and received 14 applicants. The interview team narrowed down the group to four potential interviewees. Good candidates remain in the pool for the Director Position for the interviews. HR has not officially set a date to begin interviews and the Center along with WWCC plans to begin interviews after July 4th 2013. Don Miller stated with processes of the college and the current shift in personnel he doesn't project a plan to have them on board prior to August 2013. A new director may not be hired in time to make the Directors meeting as planned in July, however; Mike Swan will attend and represent the Agriculture Center of Excellence, as Interim Director.

The new degree sequence was approved through SBCTC for a two year Associates degree. Intro to Bioenergy, Biorefinery processes, Biorefinery equipment, Biorefinery operations, Biomass feedstock management, Thermo-Chemical Conversions, and two cooperative

experience courses along with other related courses complete the 116 credits required to graduate with AAAS degree. Currently Jason is also working on the course development for final program review to collaborate with industry representatives. He is committed to creating partnerships with industry representatives who are willing to offer jobs to students post-graduation. Courses are also aligned with 4-year universities beyond the two year community college programs. Classes begin this fall 2013. Incumbent workers are also eligible to complete selected courses for short term certificates for their area of expertise.

The two DACUMS the Center is co-hosting are this week. Waste Water Management DACUM is hosted, June 17th and Precision Agriculture will be hosted June 19th. Patty attended the Waste Water DACUM and listened to industry participants discuss operator tasks and planning to work out how to achieve the skills needed for the positions can translate into the curriculum. During these sessions the group moves forward in the focal points in order to process the program degree sequence aligned with industry needs. Mike anticipates about a one year timeline for the start of student enrollment for these two programs; beginning with a Certificate Program and then refining the program to align properly with other Agriculture Programs for two year degrees.

The C.A.T. for Agriculture Program is currently on track to achieving deadlines and testing availability for students. The Plant and Animal Systems tests are online and available, and the Structural & Technical Systems is in the blueprint stage. New focuses for the C.A.T. program have been to more closely align the competencies with the high school curriculum in each of the program of study career pathways. The Animal Systems test has been reviewed by the Ag Mech teachers at the State Ag Mech CDE hosted by the Center. These teachers assisted with beginning to re-align the current frame works through OSPI with their course expectations including the STEM related project. Center staff has initiated discussion and presentations with community and technical college instructors to promote collaborations through each of the blueprints to insure the alignment of the community and technical college course expectations. These tests are planned to be accepted as dual-credit, therefore the high schools and community and technical college instructors need to be on board for full exception of these tests for credit. Also the Center is focusing on marketing toward high schools for higher participation in the program along with the agriculture industry in the non-traditional roles and positions throughout the state. Patty will be attending and presenting at the WAAE summer conference. She is marketing through a booth to promote the C.A.T. program also with the presentation with the other Center of Excellence. Developing this program will strengthen the ties and relationships between high schools and community and technical college instructors for more than just the CAT program. Mike has suggested using the soils lab manuals created a couple years back for common collaborations among other areas of study for career pathways, assisting with the testing process as well. WACANE is adamant to include industry as well for the coverage of knowledge and skills for the testing process. The Agriculture Center of Excellence hosted a WACANE meeting in Wenatchee to update teacher skills and developing a course alignment through environmental science. Mike developed a WACANE email list serve for smoother communication lines for the testing and other collaborations.

Stewart asked what the timeline is for community and technical college and high school to gain dual credit. Mike discussed the Center's plans to have the written assessment for the Animal Systems pathway finished by fall 2013. Plant Systems will be targeted for January or

spring at the latest and early 2014 for Structural & Technical Systems. The first three tests have the timeline and the rest of the tests depend on the funding availability. The dual credit has already been around in the educational system, according to Don, and this test is similar to the already established process with Tech Prep. Mike is focusing on the idea of 'acceptance' or 'buy-in' for the program with promoting and advertising. Lab Kits have been purchased from Lab Aids to be utilized in a meeting next spring to encourage collaboration in the Plant Science and STEM programs which are where Agriculture is meeting the industry needs. Industry and education need to work together in order to raise the bar and strengthen the connections between local areas.

Stewart is collaborating with the STEM and CASE teachers trained in Plant Science to raise the expectations to meet the needs at the high school level too. Leslie was contacted by the teachers for agriculture programs to recreate their programs for plant and soil sciences by Nutrients for Life and wondered if this was already with CASE and could save funds along with duplicated efforts. The main advantage for CASE is the standardized statewide curriculums used as the basis for the community and technical college programs. One concern is maintaining the student enrollment in the programs for labs in the plant science curriculum. The basic science and agriculture science pathways meet the exam requirements for biology and if agriculture education doesn't correlate with the already existing courses the student enrollment will drop. Mike refocused to what the meaning of C.A.T. truly is based on for the group. Patty has maintained her focus on the quality and communication with C.A.T. program with NOCTI and ensures a continued smoothness of the process for students and teachers involved.

The 2012-2013 Annual Center of Excellence Assessment was completed in May. Mike asked members present to review the document, also asked the board members to review each of the core expectations within the document written in green text. The collective Centers of Excellence will be meeting in July to recreate the Center's core expectations and baseline requirements. The Board members are asked to fully review and provide Mike with their suggestions to present to the state personnel during the meeting in July. With Patty attending the last Center of Excellence Directors meetings, she shared the Workplan updates; including, the last two expectations shifting to be assumptions while still required just not spelled out as core expectations. The meeting will be focused on what can be done with minimal funding for each of the current ten Centers of Excellence across Washington State. The State personnel suggested each Center bring an industry representative to the Director meeting for outsider input on the reviews. The Agriculture Center of Excellence has asked Ramon to represent us, while requesting written suggestions to take to the meeting from other Advisory Members. Michelle asked how the expectations are measured and if they are gauged through interconnectedness, articulation agreements, and ROIs. Mike validated yes the expectations for gauged through the interconnectedness, articulation agreements, and ROIs presented in the quarterly and annual reports written for the State Board.

The Center Staff are working on the final spring third quarter report and will have it completed and submitted by July 1. The members present were provided printed copies of the 'Draft' 2013-2014 Work Plan for review. The Workplan has already been submitted and recaps all of what WACANE is about and what we have talked about earlier in the meeting with C.A.T. The Workplan also has the projected expenses per project/expectation. Performance funding is now included in the base funding. Although the budget decisions are

still officially in Olympia the Center is not in jeopardy at this point for budget cuts. It is positively projected that the Agriculture Center of Excellence will receive full funding matching the current 2012-2013 budget received. Most of Travel will be hosted on West Side of Mountains, due to lack of collaborations in the past with the other side of the state. The Workplan budget allocations for community and technical college visits focus on the West Side to provide further support to those who host agriculture and natural resource programs on the other side of the state. Although the State Board has yet to officially approve our new Workplan the Center staff are ready to move forward July 1 and begin working on the projects listed in the Draft Plan.

The travel plans provided in writing are tentative at this point for the Director and other Center Staff. Also, add in WA-ACTE conference in August which was not officially included but is planned to be attended; Mike asked that the members pencil in this event. Leslie asked if the Center receives any discounts on booths with any of the events hosts. Since the Center has no record of receiving reduced pricing with limited funding, Leslie offered to contact Grain Growers and Far West Associations on behalf of the Agriculture Center of Excellence. Dean further offered to contact the Farm Bureau for reduced costs as well. High school visits noted to be changed earlier in the year in order to catch students *before* they decide on a program of study and college location. Leslie suggested taking industry representatives with the Center of Excellence to further encourage enrollment in like programs. Patty reminded the group of the original idea Tony brought to the Center with, heading up Counselors and Basic Science classes. These contacts may better the Center's chances in participation, engagement, and interest in the Agriculture and Natural Resource programs and industries. Dean asked about webinar options for the other side of the state to further reduce cost of travel. Although the Center has focused on reducing the costs and amount of time spent traveling, the WACANE group has officially requested at their last meeting to have one face-to-face meeting a year.

Traditionally, the Center has hosted the FFA District 6 Ag Mech CDE and hosted the State Ag Mech CDE at Walla Walla Community College. With a record high attendance in 2013 of over 100 students, the center asked for focus of time to be just one of the two events, maybe District. The consistent top five winners of the State Ag Mech CDE tend to be teams from Whatcom County. The Center commits a minimum of two weeks of Office Support time, to plan, organize, and host these contests. Mike suggested a possible three-year rotation and move it around the community and technical colleges across the State for the other welding programs. LaKatherine handed out and tracked interest cards for the FFA Students at eh State and District contests this year, resulting in less than 10% interested in Walla Walla Community College or Agriculture related programs. It was also suggested to possibly free up more time hosting one of the two events to focus join P.A.S. more as well.

Feedback and Discussion

Stewart appreciates the Lab Aids offering for C.A.T. due to supplies and lack of funding is areas for high school programs that struggle. The Moses Lake training institute hosting CASE curriculum requires adoption costs of \$2,500 in supplies alone. From a high school teaching point of view; is there any way to use the resources the Agriculture Center of Excellence has to assist these CASE instructors as well? Administrators are tough on the budget spending and push their teachers to complete the training but due to the limited resources to purchase the

materials, the training remains incomplete. Stewart mentioned it is scarce finding access to more resources willing to assist with both secondary and post-secondary levels. Mike revealed that buying the kits to provide to the teachers involved with C.A.T. and having community and technical college instructors come in and train to utilize these skills would be roughly 75-80% aligned with CASE.

Leslie mentioned she is sending two employees on behalf of the McGregor Company, to teach kids for AG Day in St. John Endicott. They will focus on and teach about soil testing and do the math for the ground coverage.

Dean mentioned the knowledge of agriculture through the community is dropping even in the Agriculture Focused Walla Walla Valley. He appreciates events focusing on teaching youth about the life of agriculture. Mike responded with the newly updated 'Agriculture Industry Occupations Outlook Report' projections it shows that Washington State is increasing 3% in the Agriculture industry for job opening while the Nation is decreasing by 3%. LaKatherine will email the report electronically for the members to review.

Next Meeting

The next Advisory Board Meeting is tentatively scheduled for ***September 2013***. LaKatherine will send out meeting reminders and materials as the date approaches.