



# Center of Excellence Advisory Board Meeting

Friday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

*Technology Building-Room 1107, Walla Walla Community College*

**11:30pm – 1:00pm, Working Lunch**

## *Advisory Board Members in Attendance:*

Ramon Benevides

## *Others in Attendance:*

Nick Grimm, Alanna Ellis, Jerry Jr. Anhorn, Bill Griffith, LaKatherine Stanger, Tawnya Todd, Jason Selwitz, and Patricia Hurin

## ***Welcome & Introductions***

Bill Griffith welcomed Advisory Board Members. Bill asked that everyone go around and introduce themselves, and who they represent for the Advisory Board for those who are new to the committee.

## ***Action Items***

The May 2014 meeting minutes were reviewed by the Advisory Board members. The approval of the minutes was tabled until an email approval vote can be passed or until the next meeting in the fall; due to an unmet quorum.

## ***Center Updates & Changes***

The Center is undergoing a shift in staff as: Patricia Hurin moves on to Workforce Education full time; student help, Tawnya Todd is continuing through the summer months; and a marketing representative for the Center is in discussion for hire.

The Center has been represented at a few different events by Bill Griffith and Patricia Hurin. Some events spring quarter include the Washington State FFA Convention at WSU, Lake Washington Technical College, State Board presentations, and Waitsburg field day.

Tawnya and LaKatherine have compiled a new database for all courses in the Ag and natural resources programs at the community and technical colleges in the state. The State Board reported to Bill in the fall that this task was too large for the Center and not to expect to complete this in less than a year; however, Bill reports the database is complete and will be sent to WACANE members for verification of what is listed. The program guide will be revised and an addition to the back of the booklet will list the college programs in order by college since the main booklet is organized and listed by Career Pathways. The electronic version of the program guide will offer the course listings for each program. The Center plans to use the database of courses for course crosswalks and such for transferable credits across the state as well. Ramon asked if there is or could be a 'mechanized system' to update the courses or programs as the details change over time. Bill responded with his plan to add notes in the booklet on reporting inaccuracies and updates.

Jason updated the group on the USDA Bioenergy grant and the status of the courses. Jason reported the renewal for 4<sup>th</sup> year of funding has been completed and submitted for review and feedback. He is not expecting to have results back before August. Jason is expecting roughly \$200,000 in carryover from this year to year four with a funding base of \$800,000. Bioenergy co-op students are enrolled for summer and there are seven students total enrolled for fall quarter in the program. Jason reports the program has been approved to change the name to 'Plant Operations'.

Patty reports she has spent much of her time working on new videos and marketing tactics for high school educators to promote the L.E.A.D. program across the state. She has worked with the College graphics department to create new Career Pathway posters in both English and Spanish to hand out at the WAAE conference at the end of June/beginning of July. The remaining posters are planned to be mailed out to high schools in August.

### ***2014-2015 Plans and Status Updates***

Each person present and those calling in received a copy of tentative Center travel plans and a projected budget outline for the upcoming fiscal year for July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015. Bill explained there are many trips and conventions on the list but the Center is uncertain if we will be present with a booth or not, as some events had low or now ROI. There is room in the budget for the new marketing representative part time and Tawnya part time in place of Patty. The budget for this year was under spent by a few thousand dollars and although Bill attempted to be conservative with the Center's funding he was informed the funds must be expensed down to the last penny before June 30. The spend-down plan for this year is to move Bill's salary from the NIFA L.E.A.D. grant to Ag Center base funding.

### ***2014-2015 Work Plan Discussion and Input***

The Center plans to focus on industry partners and promoting the relationships to high schools and community colleges throughout the state. The industry relationships will assist in bridging the existing gaps between education and industry skill requirements. The annual Precision Agriculture Seminar will be held at two locations 2015. Bill reported he is trying for mid-state around Yakima to host the other Precision Agriculture seminar.

Bill discussed one of the new focuses of the Center is planned to identify those who need help from the Center and partner in assisting with industry partnerships, program marketing, and shared curriculums. It was advised for the audience to whom the videos and posters are targeted toward be noted and cautiously stick to the same audience for different publications.

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

Bill requested input for the next year's work plan and projects from the Advisory Board members and those representing Washington State University on the conference call. Nick Grimm discussed the difficulties WSU has experienced in attempting to link industry with high school programs. The high schools eventually welcomed WSU reps on their campus and would listen to the presentations, but would expect the WSU reps to complete the partnerships and maintain all that is involved. Nick recommended Bill do additional research before tackling the project to connect the high schools and local industry partners.

It was advised to use social media more effectively. Although the Center is advertising multiple areas, the social media sites need to be maintained more on a regular basis, and each of the supporters of the Center needs to begin and consistently continue to 'share' the posts from the Center.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next Advisory Board Meeting is *tentatively scheduled for September 19, 2014*. LaKatherine will send out meeting reminders and materials as the date approaches.