

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

Friday, April 22, 2011 from 1:30pm – 2:30pm via Elluminate

## Meeting Attendees:

- George Ruddell, Wenatchee Valley College (WVC)
- Greg Farrens, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC)
- Jaime Clarke, Agriculture Center of Excellence
- Mike Swan, Washington State University (WSU)
- Peter Punzi, South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC)
- Riva Morgan, Wenatchee Valley College (WVC)
- Todd Bates, Grays Harbor College (GHC)
- Trent Ball, Yakima Valley Community College (YVCC)

## Agriculture Center of Excellence Updates:

- *Review of 2010-2011*

Jaime Clarke provided a review of the Agriculture Center of Excellence's activities over the current fiscal year. She described the three WACANE Meetings, eLearning webinar series, fourteen industry events attended, student recruitment in high schools, publications produced, and college specific assistance that was provided. The meeting participants were asked to vote on their technology preference for WACANE meetings to be held either via Elluminate or ITV. The vote was split, thus, Jaime will consider hosting two Elluminate meetings and two ITV meetings for 2011-2012. Jaime also inquired about participation in the webinars, the majority of meeting participants did not wish to join a webinar or view the material unless it was directly related to their coursework.

- *Looking ahead to 2011-2012*

Jaime shared that as the Center looks ahead to next year, many of the activities from previous years will be re-occurring such as the publication of the *Program Guide*, *Agricultural Occupations Quick Guide*, *Career Pathway Diagrams*, student recruitment in high schools, and attendance of industry events. New initiatives for 2011-2012 may be related to potential grant funds for curriculum expansion in biofuels/bioenergy.

## College and University Updates:

- Mike Swan from Washington State University (WSU) shared that enrollments are up and resources are diminishing. He encouraged WACANE members to continue to pursue articulation agreements with the new point person, Kate McIlraith. Mike shared that he would be happy to assist with articulation agreements and he would also encourage high school teachers to pursue Tech Prep agreements with community and technical colleges.

**WACANE Member Roundtable:**

- George Ruddell, Wenatchee Valley College (WVC), shared that enrollments in their agriculture program are up; they have also increased the number of Tech Prep agreements. He described WVC's new Agriculture Technologies Program that builds alignment with the FFA Agricultural Mechanics Career Development Event areas, including the use of GPS, GIS, pneumatics, hydraulics, and pesticide application. This year was the first time that WVC had run the Agriculture Technologies Program which successfully attracted 20 students.
- Greg Farrens, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC), described the Skills Panel in Irrigation Technology that the Agriculture Center of Excellence facilitated during the month of February. The results of the Skills Panel were used to update the existing Skill Standards for Irrigation Technology. He also shared the advances that his program has made to move curriculum to distance materials through Washington Online tools like Angel and Tegrity. Greg was excited about the high levels of success he has seen with one-credit modules.
- Peter Punzi, South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC), discussed high enrollments and pending budget cuts that may remove non-degree specific classes related to food production. He shared that the college has some land that could potentially be used for food production and wetland mitigation. Jaime mentioned a National Science Foundation grant that Edmonds Community College and Seattle Central Community College are working on related to urban food production and that it may be a potential partnership opportunity for SPSCC. Greg suggested to Peter that the non-degree specific classes be run as self-support classes with an adjunct faculty member, which would allow the course to be offered at a reduced expense to the college.
- Trent Ball, Yakima Valley Community College (YVCC), provided an overview of activities in his first year of YVCC's National Science Foundation grant. He shared that they are currently revising the Enology and Viticulture curriculum to meet online formats. YVCC has also partnered with the Department of Labor to develop an Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) model for agriculture. Once developed the model will be the first agriculture production specific I-BEST in Washington.
- Todd Bates, Grays Harbor College (GHC), described the series of hands-on classes he is teaching in forestry. He is currently teaching combined classes of GHC and Centralia College students at the Satsop Forest this quarter. The classes meet daily from 8am – 4pm and cover materials related to forest ecology, this quarter will serve as the capstone class for the program.