

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

Thursday, September 8, 2011 from 3:00pm – 4:00pm via ITV

Meeting Attendees:

- George Ruddell, Wenatchee Valley College (WVC)
- Bob Gillespie, Wenatchee Valley College (WVC)
- Lloyd Thompson, Washington Association of Agricultural Educators (WAAE)
- Debbie Frazier, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC)
- George Klein, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC)
- Andy Winnett, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC)
- Greg Farrens, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC)
- Jaime Clarke, Agriculture Center of Excellence
- LaKatherine Stanger, Agriculture Center of Excellence

Agriculture Center of Excellence Updates:

- *Staffing Updates*

Jaime Clarke announced her resignation as the Center Director effective September 9, 2011. For information or questions regarding the Center, please contact LaKatherine Stanger (509- 527- 4635 or lakatherine.stanger@wwcc.edu) as she will be the point of contact until the position for a Director is filled.
- *2011-2012 Work Plan*

A review of the Agriculture Center of Excellence's activities over the current fiscal year (2011-2012), included four recommended industry events. Jaime presented details about each of the Center objectives, core expectations and planned activities listed in the State approved 2011-2012 work plan. The members as listed present approved the work plan.
- *Webinars*

An eLearning webinar series of four different topic areas will be available later this year. The Center is open for suggestions on possible topics for the webinars, as there are currently none selected. Although the meetings through Elluminate had low attendance numbers last year, the recordings posted to the Agriculture Center's website had a high number of hits. Jaime feels this was a good indicator of high levels of interest and recording the meetings was a good idea for those who couldn't make it to the sessions.
- *Outreach / Industry Events*

The Center is scheduled to attend only four events this year due to budget reductions. The recommended events are shown in bold on the Industry Events Calendar, and consist of; 1) Washington's Cattlemen's Conference scheduled for November 10 & 11, 2011, 2) Farm Bureau Annual Meeting scheduled for November 15 & 16, 2011, 3) Washington's Hay Growers Convention scheduled for January 11 & 12, 2012, and 4) Washington's Potato Conference scheduled for January 24 & 25, 2011. Other successful events in the past for the Center will be attended via, ITV or other travel means that the budget can handle.

- *Student Recruitment*

The Center will hire a high school agriculture and natural resources program recruiter to visit high schools around Washington State. The recruiter is planned to be JJ Harrison again this year. JJ plans to visit different high schools than last year to offer more diversity in a larger region.

- *Publications*

Jaime shared that many of the publications from the previous year were being updated such as; the *Program Guide*, *Agricultural Occupations Quick Guide*, and *Career Pathway Diagrams*. New initiatives for 2011-2012 may be related to some curriculum expansion in biofuels/bioenergy, pending grant application approval outcomes. The Center plans to have available one or more new DACUM publications for bioenergy and crosswalks in horticulture, natural resources, and forestry programs.

- *Budget*

The Agriculture Center of Excellence received a budget reduction, as did the rest of the Centers. The baseline budget was reduced while performance funding is projected to remain unchanged, leaving the Center a final budget for the fiscal year of \$155,000 rather than the normal \$170,000. The fluctuation in funding will not affect the role of the Center; rather it will encourage a new Director to explore efficient ways to travel for out of area conferences, and to locate conferences closer to our region.

Post-Secondary Agriculture Students

- Debbie Frazier provided an update on the National Post-Secondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS). If colleges wish to participate in PAS, Fall Membership Rosters need to be submitted to the National PAS. The 2011 PAS National Conference was held in Springfield, Illinois in March. She shared that three teams got first place awards at the national contest. State may be held at Walla Walla Community College this year at the end of January. Debbie encouraged the participating WACANE members to consider PAS for their students. She will email the link to George and Bob in Wenatchee. Colleges that wish to obtain more information about PAS are encouraged to contact Debbie Frazier directly at; debbie.frazier@wwcc.edu.

WACANE Member Roundtable:

- George Ruddell, Wenatchee Valley College (WVC), indicated he is currently developing transfer agreements and coordinating needed adaptations with the institutions curriculum committee.
- Bob Gillespie, Wenatchee Valley College (WVC), discussed enrollment dates starting every other year for new students to improve the degree completion ratios.
- Debbie Frazier, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC) was contacted by OSU this summer about working on articulation agreements. The signatures are expected in order to finalize the agreements in the next couple of months.
- George Klein, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC), shared that he has now converted the classroom to online, with the hands on experiences completed either in the classroom or with getting a job in the related area of Outdoor Equipment and Machining.
- Andy Winnett, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC), explained that the John Deere Dealer Training has ended their agreement with WWCC, and the program has now been moved to John Deere Technology. New students will be starting their degree process on the even years to increase degree completion.

- Greg Farrens, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC), shared the news about the Water and Environmental Center has completed their expansion, so he is now moving from the technology building over to the water building. All of the irrigation and water courses will now be taught in the Water Center at WWCC. He is making a major effort to have more online classes as it brings in more industry people interested in retraining, or upgrading employees' skills.

Next Meeting

The next WACANE meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 2012 and will be hosted via ITV.

DRAFT