WORKFORCE ADVISORY MEETING
April 16, 2013
12:00 – 1:30 pm
Board Room, (1000 bldg.)

Minutes

Present: John Cain – The Boeing Company, Paul Christopherson-Opportunity Center for Education & Employment, Gordon Denby – GeoEngineers, Jason Redrup – IAM District 751, AFL-CIO.


Welcome and introductions.

Minutes Review & Updates

• Paul Christopherson commented that unemployment benefits have been extended until the end of FY13. The federal extension will be impacted by a 7-10% reduction in either the number of weeks or dollars. At this time, it is not known exactly what the impact will be or when it will occur.

• Gordon is still interested in teasing out some completion rates.

• Kim stated that the largest problem in determining completion rates is that the state does not intertwine those who completed a program with those who left the program because they got a job. The SBCTC only counts students who complete in their program; also, current reporting methods do not indicate whether or not employment is linked to the program of study. There is currently no way to patch these holes in the way data is collected.

• Linda announced that the SCC Board of Trustees has adopted a new Strategic Plan that includes Retention/Completion; it will require more staff to monitor/track this type of data.

• Kim commented that the state legislature is moving towards outcomes based completion rates in Worker Retraining programs to determine the amount of funding awarded to colleges.

Minutes approved.
Labor Market Comments

Gordon:

- In the sciences, job seekers must have fundamental math training, either technical or practical-based.

- There are 5 different markets: development, transportation, federal, water resources, and energy.

- Development is doing pretty well with some office buildings for the State of Washington.

- The transportation market is slowing.

- Spending in the federal market is slow.

- Water/energy are both growing with continuing development and expansion within the Department of Ecology (fish, dams, levies); high growth in environmental sciences.

- Activity in the energy sector is focused particularly in the transmission of energy relative to natural gas; this area had a very good first quarter and provided an opportunity for the College to train students to become part of this growth; industries are developing in Baton Rouge, LA.

- Water resources includes surveying, which is becoming very technical involving GPS and complicated instrumentation, monitoring resources and the environment; there is a continuing push by the Department of Ecology.

- There is growth in the fields of civil and environmental engineering with increased hiring in the environmental area. Successful applicants must have basic laboratory skills in chemical, biotechnology, and marine.

- Not involved in the solar sector

- Newest technology is in aerial mapping and earth slides

- Horizontal/directional drilling is done to avoid those places where pipelines have broken in the past. Wide demand for technicians who can use Lidar technology.

- Culvert replacement work has a negative effect on salmon.

- Transportation sector is drawing the population nearer to transit centers. Transportation is a big push in the state by the governor.
Brandon:
The Puget Sound Regional Council has a call out to community members to sit on the Transportation Committee; this committee will have a strong influence on forthcoming plans. Contact Brandon for more information.

BOEING Update
- Some Boeing employees who have been laid off are being offered lower paying jobs in order to keep them within the Company.
- The post certification program, which is wrapping up in May, takes a lot of people, so Boeing over-hires resulting in the need to find new jobs for these people; Boeing is booked out for seven years at all locations for orders; attrition rate is not as high in production – as machinists retire, others move into higher level positions; need about 1200 new people each year to maintain level employee base.
- Nearly all employees at the Auburn site are retirement eligible.
- Boeing is applying for Trade Act; looking for training issues.
- Many laid-off Boeing workers came to school to ‘tread water’ until they are re-hired by Boeing.
- Jason - encourage students in aerospace – the need will be there – look long term.

Paul:
- EUC claimants will be receiving federal extensions; the Employment Security Department will be downsizing by eliminating positions in Olympia, at TeleCenter locations, and some management positions; keep as much out in the field as possible; some administrative functions being eliminated.
- The largest population is in King County.
- Many are exhausting their federal extension and move into TANF, however, we have not seen that increase; tracking stops once benefits are exhausted.
- Rule of thumb – double the number for a more accurate number. Some are returning back to work.

Brandon reported on metrics.
- SCC did a self-study last year that indicated retention is about 60%; vets 33%; prof-tech programs have a very good rate with over 80% completion. Certifications – near 100%
- There is a massive drop-off among students lacking basic skills – less than 25% make it.
• The Student Achievement Initiative measures basic skills improvement and college readiness for 1st year college success and records outcomes from the first 15 college credits.

Worker Retraining:
• Current Worker Retraining numbers are lower than in last 4-5 years, which is not surprising, since the unemployment rate has dropped to 19%; progress still very strong.
• FTE’s have increased slightly from last year; funding increased by $10K, which supported the Purchasing Supply Chain and Management program.
• Email questions or comments to Dave/Kim by next Monday.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30.

Minutes by Jeanne Skaare.