WORKFORCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes
December 17, 2012

Present: Gordon Denby-GeoEngineers, Paul Christopherson – OCE&E, Pam Gee-Oliver – BioRad Labs

Welcome and introductions.

Minutes Review & Updates:

- Dave addressed the State Board for Community and Technical College (SBCTC) Research Report, which is factual in terms of hard numbers and presents general performance metrics for Worker retraining program outcomes. The SBCTC report is a ‘look in the rear view mirror’.

- Paul commented that a lot of information on the SBCTC report is gleaned by employers from state tax reports. The data is always a year or two behind.

- Retention: the SBCTC Research Report shows that SCC is doing well.

- If the federal extension ends in December, a substantial number people in school will probably continue their education; this could be as many as 60,000 in the state and 10,000 in King County; this does not include those already unemployed. This could create a ‘tidal wave effect’ for community colleges.

- DSHS is seeing an increase in food stamp recipients, mainly due to exhausted unemployment benefits.

- Some people are on training benefits while others are only receiving unemployment benefits.

- Clarification: The Medical Lab Tech beginning wage is $18.94/hour, which is more realistic for Health Informatics and Information Management than $40/hour as previously reported.

- Outside certification bodies: completion rates are very high in SCC’s programs that require outside certification; healthcare, we know are completion rates are very high above 85%; graduation from program; accreditation bodies do not send info to SCC; because of guarding privacy of graduates.

- Nursing remains on the demand list (Demand/Decline) in King, Snohomish, and Pierce counties.

Following are comments from Lynn Von Schlieder, MSN, RN, Nursing Program Director @ Shoreline Community College:
Yes, there is a demand for nurses and it will increase over the next few years as all of us baby-boomers retire and the older live longer with more chronic illnesses, etc. Hospitals had decreased hiring for a bit, especially new graduates, but that has picked up again. New graduates are very expensive and the need for residency programs is also expensive and as some of the local hospitals put in computer systems and shifted staffing around, they cut some hiring. Also more need for advanced practice nurses and educators. I've attached a recent article and there is also information about the shortage on the Washington Center for Nursing website.


- Student completion rate information is dependent upon student intent codes; however, sometimes students do not update intent codes; FERPA regulations only allow students to change their intent codes. Math also affects the completion rate, as it can be a huge barrier for students.

- The Sustainable Business Certificate (an additional information type of certificate) is intertwined with three other programs, which makes tracking difficult.

- A student may leave the college to work then come back for more education. The other part of the story is that some students leave the college and do get hired, sometimes in their field.

- The state determines completion and hire rates per program based on the Eligible Training Provider (ETP) list. If a program is not on the EPT list, it is difficult to determine completion rates, capture students “falling through the cracks,” and identify programs not meeting SBCTC standards. www.careerbridge.wa.gov

- The SBCTC is trying to increase the incentive toward improvement by comparing data from each community college in the system. Funded through the Student Achievement Initiative (SAI), data gathered provides a baseline number of students in various categories, compared with all community colleges in the state, and tied to funding sources. Brandon will bring SAI data and % of students completing programs to the next meeting.

- Pam suggested that a Power Point presentation including the basic metrics (completion rates, etc.) would stimulate more meaningful discussion during advisory meetings.

- Gordon commented that from a staff motivational point of view, it would be nice for SCC staff morale to be informed of SCC’s completion rate. How well is SCC doing? How many actually completed?

- How well SCC is doing depends on who is asking the questions. The basic questions are: How many were trained and how many were hired?

- The college is responsible for reporting how public funds are spent.
Update on Labor Market Trends
Brandon will report on Department of Labor grants at the next advisory committee meeting.

Gordon –His company is looking at 31 condominium and office building developments in the Bellevue/Seattle region, indicating a boom in construction. Staff is doing geological reports this year with construction to follow next year. There is a mini-boom in the condo market reflecting a shift away from houses; 80% is private construction. Predictions for growth are difficult right now considering both local and national burdens, but the potential growth factor of just under 7.4% in 2013 is encouraging.

GeoEngineers is hiring mostly engineers and geologists. With the push to enforce environmental regulations, there is also a need for qualified lab technicians without a college degree.

Paul – OCE&E: The unemployment rate is dropping slowly; however, there are still about 300 unemployed per week coming to the OCE&E. Ten thousand in King County will be losing extended benefits by the end of December 2012; individuals on Tier 1 benefits may receive some continuing benefits.

Pam – BioRad Labs: There is some hiring activity; a lot of temps are currently employed. Bio-Rad Labs is a conservative company currently focused on headcount stabilization; any hiring is very specialized; the company is very cautious, stable financially, and growing.

Additional ‘signs of life’
Kim reported there are still some layoffs in retail and restaurant sectors.
Pam added that business is picking up and temp agencies are having better years.
Gordon noted that temp agencies don’t fall under ObamaCare.

Brandon and Kim will send labor market reports to Dave for distribution to advisory committee members.

Election of Advisory Committee Chair
Dave announced that a new chair will be elected at the Spring Quarter meeting when the new dean will be part of this process.

Adjourned at 1:30.

Minutes by Jeanne Skaare