WORKFORCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes
Wednesday, February 3, 2010
12:00 – 1:30 pm
Board Room, 1000 bldg.

Present: Charlie Best – The Worker Center, Gordon Denby – GeoEngineers.

Call to order by Charlie; introductions were made around the table.

Approval of minutes – Charlie “loved” the minutes.

Agenda review: Pre-apprenticeship program

College Update: Dave
SCC’s automotive program is long established, but an interesting industry partnership is emerging with a Bellevue company – Mileage Matrix – specializing in CO2 technology that bypasses the catalytic converter. This technology will make major cuts in CO2 particulates and increase miles per gallon by 10% or better. The company presented a demonstration on the SCC track using a huge Chrysler engine that ran on plasma fuel and emitted very few particulates. At the present time Mileage Matrix is marketing its product to companies and agencies with fleets, e.g., BCC police fleet. In partnership with Mileage Matrix, SCC would act as a regional training center to convert both gasoline and diesel engines. Venture capital people attended the demonstration as well.

SCC recently signed an agreement with Hyundai; dealers on West Coast will be sending technicians to SCC for special training.

SCC also signed an agreement with Snap-on Tool to provide certification training in new automotive building.

The fiscal crisis in the state is having a ripple effect, as SCC may have to cut $2 million from the budget this next year; a hiring and spending freeze is expected over the next 18 months across state; this means no hiring replacements or new positions. This is a problem, as the College must update the IT system in spite of the financial crisis.

The Clean (a.k.a. Zero) Energy program is still progressing. Barbara mentioned that many workforce students are interested in the Solar Energy program.

SCC has applied for federal dollars available for weatherization of both homes and commercial property. Although many people are involved, Dave has met specifically with Lee Newgent of the Seattle-King County Labor Council. If SCC is funded, short term training in some building trades may be offered.
Renton Technical College Construction Center of Excellence offers training in 11 different construction trades. SCC could tie into that infrastructure by offering pre-training classes in math and English. Some
confusion exists regarding pre-apprenticeship training because the Feds work outside of the local King County Labor Council parameters.

Worker Retraining: Kim
The difference in total students enrolled between Fall and Winter quarters 2010 (509/328) reflects the drop in enrollment due to lack of funds:

- IASSS experienced a 50% drop.
- ESL – the least drop.
- Humanities – 111/78 - VCT is the largest program; Multimedia Animation is the only option on the demand list.
- IASSS/Business - 120/66 - The higher levels of Accounting are in demand, as well as the Business Administration options. Criminal Justice programs are not on the demand list.
- Science - CAD is not in demand.
- ESL/ABE program completion rate is stable.

The CNC Machinist program title will be changed to Machinist at the request of Tradec – a matter of semantics.

Computerized Manufacturing Technology - Students go through the paid internship during the 3rd quarter. SCC is also partnering with other colleges who provide manufacturing in other areas. This is an avenue for getting students into programs at other colleges. CNC is also an IBEST program at SCC, so students may be funded through the OG or BFET. IBEST programs are very successful.

Charlie noted that Tradec is still laying off people.

The largest number of students are in the Zero Energy/Clean Technology program; Charlie noted that no major contractor doing Green work.

SCC’s Sustainable Business Leadership program provides training on “how to green a business.”

Updates – Financial Aid - Linda
Again, totals reflect another major drop in enrollment due to lack of funds:

- Worker retraining financial aid tuition – Summer/165, Fall/97.
- WorkFirst – for those receiving temporary aid – Summer/31, Fall/30, Winter/ 25 includes tuition, fees, books. Remaining funds $26, 305.
- BFET - Fall/72, Winter/67. Funds are still available for tuition and fees; many more students are qualified that can take advantage of other support services on campus.
- Opportunity Grant – Every IBEST student is eligible; however, OG only funds the first 45 credits: Summer/43, Fall/55, Winter/74. Remaining funds - $121,000.

Discussion
SCC Graduate Follow-up Community Awareness

- Invite businesses who have hired SCC graduates or provided internship opportunities to offer scholarships for potential students during the current fiscal crisis.
- SCC’s DSHS co-lo position, which has been vacant since summer, is now filled and will once again be able to provide graduate placement information.
- Advisory committee members act as employer/partners on behalf of SCC within the community.
- Charlie volunteered to contact-follow up graduates of CWA CNC program.
- Barbara noted that in the IBEST model, the automotive program has a career navigator to assist with job development, placement, and follow up; last year’s data reflects 100% employment.
• Dave commented that Workforce Education will begin using an online survey tool such as Zoomerang to gather graduate information.
• Additional outreach sources are SCC’s Foundation and Public Information Office.
• He also noted that SCC’s factory-sponsored automotive programs have a very successful model whereby students are interviewed and selected by dealers for internship positions. Replicating this model for other programs at SCC would be a worthwhile endeavor.

**Labor Market Discussion**

• Regarding last year’s Rapid Response report, Charlie noted that two major areas are never reported:
  o Boeing – the numbers he heard were 10,000 WARN notices and 3100 actually severed.
  o The construction industry does not use the Rapid Response system either.
• In the public sector, some construction is occurring in the infrastructure – roads and bridges, however, building construction is dead.
• Barbara noted faster growth in clean technology design and engineering.
• There were fewer layoffs in January; however the Department of Planning and Development laid off many workers as a result of the drop in building permit applications.
• Kim requested more specific job titles on the “demand” list.
• Gordon reported that his company has released CAD operators, and other staff are picking up those skills by teaching themselves. Also, word processing positions are becoming project assistants.
• Dave suggested running an industry focus group to test the market.
• With all the technology available, the kids of today are dual processing, and educators must be nimble to keep up.

Worker Retraining planning numbers and guidelines will be released soon.

Next meeting - April 6 at noon.

Adjourned at 1:40.

Recorded by Jeanne Skaare.