Worker Retraining Advisory Committee  
Shoreline Community College  
November 19, 2007


Call to Order: Charlie opened the meeting; introductions were made around the table.

Minutes: The committee agreed to accept the minutes.

Agenda items: Charlie requested including the Dislocation Activities Report along with the Worker Retraining Report.

Workforce Updates

WRT Grant Allocation
Kim reported that SCC’s 2007-08 Worker Retraining allocation was cut $225,000 because the College did not make its FTE target. The total allocation for FY08 is $781,591. With historically low unemployment rates, there are not as many laid off workers seeking retraining. However, there may be increased activity in the mortgage area by spring quarter as a result of the Adjustable Rate Mortgage issue.

Dislocation Activities (Rapid Response Team) Report
The Rapid Response Team assists unemployed workers in King County in finding new jobs. According to Charlie Best, most employers appear on the dislocation list as a result of mergers or consolidations and not necessarily business failures. Dislocations even happen in good economic times. At the present time, the unemployment rate is historically low and job growth is healthy, so the average tenure on the unemployment rolls is shorter than usual. In addition, enhanced severances and bonuses are awarded to some who choose to stay on the job until the last scheduled day of employment.

Berta asked advisory committee members if they are finding skilled workers and what kind of training the College could be providing:
- Kenneth Hamm from First Choice Health reported that the demand is great in the nursing field – in specialized as well as general areas.
- Companies in the earth sciences field like GeoEngineers and Landau Associates have many entry level openings for engineering and field techs. Preferred training with applications toward field activities includes: biology, fisheries, wetlands, plant species, marine surveys, wetlands delineation, CAD, and GIS.
- Kim suggested that SCC offer 1-2 year programs with emphasis in chemistry and biology.

**Worker Retraining Update**
- Kim presented an Enrollment Summary reflecting a steady decline in enrollment from summer quarter 2003-2004 through fall quarter 2007-2008.
- Recruitment and funding concerns include:
  - lowest unemployment rate in Washington State since 1976; SCC’s small geographical recruitment area; competition among local community colleges within a 10 mile radius; SCC’s primary recruitment area is mainly residential; the Worker Retraining FTE reimbursement rate is still at 1993 dollars; limited WIA dollars are available.
  - SCC may have to cut funding for books and limit funding for students to only one/two quarters.

**Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET)**
Kim introduced the brand new Food Stamp Employment & Training program that began summer quarter 2007. This program provides free tuition and services for Food Stamp Assistance recipients not receiving WorkFirst cash. Services include support for childcare, transportation, clothing, housing, and utility shut-off. This program will augment other funding sources available on campus and will be particularly beneficial for those in the Social Security system for whom other funding is not available.

**Vulnerable Worker Recruiting Plan**
The Vulnerable Worker Program is designed to provide training for employees in danger of losing their jobs, working in fields that are on the decline, and/or do not have a degree of 45 credits or more. Individuals must meet two of the three criteria in order to qualify for this funding. Training may be provided either online or in evening classes on a full or part-time basis. So far, employers are not granting release time for training. Kim’s recruitment plan includes informational mailings as well as presentations at local agencies and organizations.

**Graduate/Wage Data**
- Donsa presented information from Employment Security reflecting current employers and wages of SCC graduates by program (based on Employment Security data from 2006 and most of 2007). Most graduates are employed in their field of training earning an average wage of $18 per hour.
- Approximately 10% of Shoreline’s students are dislocated workers.
- Gordon Denby suggested contacting the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce regarding its presentation on the gaming industry in King County. This industry involves more than 70 small companies in the Seattle area that provide a market for SCC training in Digital Arts Imagery and other programs of applied technology.
WorkFirst
Barbara stated that the SCC WorkFirst program has its own programs and also integrates students into college programs to provide educational and employment opportunities to low income parents. WorkFirst programs are offered in Nursing Assistant Certified, Business Life Skills, and Childcare Essentials for ESL. Services and financial assistance are provided through High Wage High Demand (DSHS) funding, Vocational Education, ABE/GED/ESL, Comprehensive Evaluation (CASAS testing), and WorkStudy. Two hundred twenty-nine students registered for a total of 1768 credits which generated 117.9 FTE during Summer/Fall 2007.

Financial Aid
Highlights of Program Coordinator Rose Steele’s report as of November 16, 2007:

- WRT 07-08 Expenditures $164,422.56
- WRT 07-08 Funds Remaining $ 50,077.44
- Total students funded: 127

- WorkFirst 07-08 State Funds
  - Total Expenditures $29,411.79
  - Funds Remaining $ 0.21

- WorkFirst 07-08 Federal Funds
  - Total Expenditures $11,008.61
  - Funds Remaining $74,991.39

- Total Students funded: 47
- YTD Grand Total for State and Federal Expenditures = $40,420.40

A Graduate Tells Her Story!
Patty Burke-Butler, a long-time resident of Shoreline, has been a homemaker, State Legislator, and an employee of a non-profit organization. Following major changes in her life, she interviewed unsuccessfully for many, many jobs. Subsequently, she looked to Employment Security for assistance but was told she was ineligible for funding. Finally, she contacted SCC’s Womens’ Center and was referred to SCC’s Career Employment Services office where she found the staff to be very helpful. Through their assistance, it was determined that she was eligible for Worker Retraining funds. Patty is currently enrolled in the Health Care Information program.

WorkSource Connections Website
Barbara gave a demonstration of the WorkSource Connection Site/ Shoreline Community College website which provides access to WorkSource services and resources available through the College. Individuals seeking employment may access links to employer services, training programs, job search assistance, and funding sources.

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 pm.