Worker Retraining Advisory Committee
Shoreline Community College
December 3, 2008


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

Minutes: Minutes from the April 16, 2008 meeting were accepted.

Agenda review:
Additions/deletions
• Charlie – Information regarding lay-offs
• Gregory – Purpose/mission of the Workforce Advisory Committee
• Jim Peterson – Impact of new administration on Workforce Education
• Kim – Remove student success story

Purpose/mission of Workforce Education Advisory Committee
Barbara outlined the purpose:
• To provide employer and labor input regarding development of Worker Retraining programs (degrees/certificates) and how Worker Retraining funds are used.
  o Worker Retraining funds are designated for individuals who have been laid off, exhausted unemployment benefits, are displaced homemakers, vulnerable workers, victims of disasters whose jobs were affected, military personnel who have been honorably discharged, and those who lack the skills to maintain a living wage.
• To provide input regarding the economy and positions that are in demand/decline.
• To review targeted programs and provide input for 2009-2010 Worker Retraining Plan.
• The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges requires that all professional-technical programs have an advisory committee including a labor representative.
• Charlie commented that labor has an ear to employees and serves as the liaison between employees, employers/industry, and program development.

Summary of discussion regarding the mission of Workforce Advisory Committee
• Are the results of discussions moving forward and impacting SCC’s programs?
• Bring more ideas and data on new programs to the group.
• How are ideas and results tracked?
• Provide labor market information before deciding on targeted programs.
• Donsa’s employment report is an excellent tool.
• Consider employee needs, i.e., short-term certificates offered at “odd” times.
• Committee members take collective responsibility for creating the agenda.
• Post agenda and minutes well in advance of the meeting.
• List action items in the minutes including how items have been implemented into programs.
• Provide information packets relevant to agenda item at meetings.
• Student Success Stories are proof of programs’ success.
• Encourage students/graduates to give critical comments regarding their experience in Workforce programs.
• Committee provide questions to stimulate critical thinking.
• Limit time for success stories.
Nominations for New Committee Chair
Charlie nominated Greg; Greg nominated Charlie. Charlie agreed to continue as chair.

Worker Retraining Plan 2008-09
Barbara presented the suggested list of targeted Worker Retraining programs for 2009-2010:

Discussion
Worker Retraining money can be used to assist in expanding programs or capacities for additional classes to accommodate unemployed persons on class waitlists. An example is SCC’s new Nursing -10 quarter evening program. Another option is offering classes online.

SCC is actively recruiting for its automotive programs.

Kim clarified that we are talking about program development dollars rather than financial support for dislocated workers.

Pam mentioned that some in the community think the community colleges are not being unresponsive to workers needs. However, she pointed out that many factors must be considered when developing or adding programs, i.e., time of day classes are offered and instructor availability. Barbara added that Workforce Education is trying to move more rapidly through the cumbersome community college program development/approval process.

Charlie reported that some companies are hiring, i.e., Boeing and Bio-Rad; we are not in a negative job creation (depression) situation. New jobs are being created, however, the job search process is very competitive and takes more time and work.

Pre-Apprenticeship Program Discussion
Charlie will research the Pre-Apprenticeship and Zero Energy programs, and Donsa will prepare her employment report for the next advisory committee meeting. Barbara noted that Berta has been working with both labor and industry to identify demand and employers.

A motion was made and seconded that Berta present a report to the advisory committee containing background information and data regarding the Pre-Apprenticeship program at the next meeting.

Charlie noted that the committee approved the suggested list of programs for the 2009-2010 Worker Retraining Plan.

Worker Retraining Update
Kim reviewed enrollment numbers:

Worker Retraining
Summer ‘08 - 157; Fall ‘08 - 266 (unreconciled)

“Other” WRT Eligible Participants (Non-Dislocated)
Fall ‘08 - 10

Vulnerable Worker Employers
None since Spring ‘09

WIA partners’ funding is exhausted as of Winter ‘09

High-Wage/High Demand targeted program Fall ‘08 enrollment:
Nursing – 51, Medical Lab Tech - 7, Dental Hygiene – 9, Health Information Tech – 8, VCT – 42,
Workforce Updates

Employment Security
Donsa reported that Call Centers are going crazy, since the Feds passed several extensions beginning last July. If all criteria are met, a person/student may receive up to 85 weeks of unemployment compensation. The extensions will end by March 2009. For more information, check out the National Employment Law Project (NELP) website.

Donsa also announced that her office recently passed an Employment Security audit with flying colors - congratulations!

Job Connections Center
Barbara reported that SCC’s Job Connections Center will become a bonafide WorkSource Center in December by duplicating some of the services offered at the WorkSource North “virtually”.

Charlie inquired about access and parking availability at the WorkSource North location; Barb indicated that parking has improved with the addition of approximately 40 spaces in the south parking lot. She added that it is a very nice site.

Rapid Response Report
Charlie reported that layoffs in the King County region hit 5 figures during 2008 at 10,000+ – the highest since 2001. He believes this indicates a recession, as all areas of the economy have been affected. Donsa added that layoffs have had a ripple effect as in the case of a coffee stand operator having to close after a nearby branch of Washington Mutual closed.

Impact under New Administration
Charlie expects stimulus packages may be forthcoming under the new administration to boost the economic situation in this region and nationally.

Greg suggested expanding the membership of the Workforce Advisory Committee and holding three meetings per year. Charlie suggested inviting Puget Sound Energy or Seattle City Light.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 pm.

Minutes recorded by Jeanne Skaare.