



Construction Center of Excellence

Quarterly Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2008, 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Renton Technical College

Attendees: Julia Cordero, Shana Peschek, Beth Blanchard, Cathy Feole, Sean Lewis, Dave Perrin, Joan Weiss, Arne Reyier, Barbara Kuhn, Cynthia Casner, Peter Guzman

Topics of Discussion:

Dave Perrin acted as committee chair

Member Reports

Cynthia Casner and Barbara Kuhn from Bates Technical College reported on their new 100% online construction program for green construction and remodeling. They are the instructors and facilitators of the program. It started 4 years ago when Barbara was contacted by a Japanese construction firm that contracted with Bates to partner on "green construction with emphasis on remodeling. They want to be "ahead of the curve" in Japan, they build 500-600 homes per year and employ hundreds of people. Bates started researching ideas for a "foundation" curriculum and developed a 5-class series. The first class is required and is an introduction, followed by 4 classes addressing Building Materials, Air Quality, Water Quality and Marketing and Sales. After completion of the introductory class, a student can take any or all of the other classes. Students earn two college credits per class and receive a Certificate of Training if all five classes are completed. Dave suggested CCE be a clearing house for "Green" resources and advised Bates to get on L&I Listserv to market their program. Bates is encouraging small/medium size companies to get the certificate as it is a good selling point for residential builders. They are also applying to be an education source for "Built Green."

Kristi Grassman spoke about Construction Career Day. They appreciate all the support they are getting and are getting involvement from such geographically diverse school districts as Federal Way and Willapa Valley Schools, as well as apprenticeships and companies. Registration is available online for the November 6 event. They are still accepting sponsorships and looking for volunteers. 600-800 kids are expected.

Peter Guzman reported on the Pierce County Pathways to Apprenticeship event. It will be held on October 10th at Bates and will provide educators and principals with information about apprenticeship opportunities. It starts at 8:00am, and includes plenary speakers, breakout sessions, a working lunch, and tours of apprenticeship programs. Pierce County Career Connections is marketing Pathways. The binder party for this event will be held 9/26/08.

Joan Weiss reported on Green Expo, October 10th at the Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center. Apollo Alliance is organizing the event and unconfirmed speakers include Greg Nichols

and Ron Simms. There will be workshops as well as a reception dinner at the Westin, all included in the registration price.

Director's Report

Updates:

- CCE Speakers' Bureau
- Green Building Skill Panel
- CCE 2009-2011 Strategic Planning Session

New Business

- Green building education survey
- Historic Preservation pilot class update
- Green Building 101 DVD
- OSPI Program of Study Project
- CCE Pathways to Apprenticeship event
- Annual Conference?

Director's Report:

CCE Speakers' Bureau: We are in the process of assembling an initial group of people to be speakers, not only for K-12 events, but also professional organizations. It's online design is similar to professional speakers' bureaus. Julia asked members for advice on the announcement, and whether or not we need different announcements for schools and organizations. Dave asked what final decision was made on listing speakers that have a fee. Julia advised him we will only be including free speakers in our bureau.

We will also be offering an "Introduction to Speaking" half day class. Arne Reyier has a toastmaster and safety coordinator that might be available to teach the class if we need an instructor. Joan suggested getting some young people right out of school on the bureau that could speak to peers about their experience.

Green Building Skill Panel: Julia provided some meeting notes to the members. The panel has been meeting for four months and is now in working groups for 3 focus categories; Preparing for emerging and growing jobs, Upskilling the existing workforce and Integrating green skills across sectors. Julia is working on the Upskilling the existing workforce group. In conjunction with this the CCE has been conducting a statewide "Green Education" survey for green training in the community/technical college system. It is still in the preliminary stages.

Strategic Plan for Steering Committee: Members agree we need to review the strategic plan for any changes. We will put together a working group, Arne Reyier, Dave Perrin, Kristi Grassman, Sean Lewis, Beth Blanchard, Laurie Black, Melissa Pressley all volunteered for the working group, Joan Weiss may also want to participate. Sometime after the first few weeks in January works best for those in education. Dave thinks most of topics are still pertinent but we may want to add or change some items.

Historic Preservation pilot class update: Washington Departments of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Parks, and Veterans want to see a program developed for a trades-based

Historic Preservation program. Currently there is nothing in Washington for this, and the closest programs are in Oregon and Utah. RTC will initiate this project by running an "Introduction to Historic Preservation" class in Winter quarter 2009. Interest in this class may help us determine the level of interest for an HP program.

Sean and Arne know people and will get a list of advisers, underwriters, possible instructors, looking for industry needs for these skilled workers.

Green Building 101 DVD: The DVD is based on the February Green Building Workshop but has expanded. It will be more dynamic and will include additional footage to augment the workshop presentation. Melissa from KIRO is working with the Center on final production of the DVD product. The Center is seeking footage of construction-related green jobs and any experts who could be interviewed for potential sound bytes. Cathy Feole volunteered to help and Beth will talk to Laurie to see if the Green Building Skill Panel has funding to help sponsor the project.

OSPI Program of Study Project: OSPI approached Allied Health, IT and Construction Centers of Excellence to develop a pilot for statewide programs of study. The Centers will create a template that any program in the state will be able to use. One of the goals is to develop a product for a seamless transition from K-12 to postsecondary. The Centers will be working with tech prep, apprenticeship, industry, and 2- and 4- year colleges and universities to create a product that will be useful to parents and students. The CCE has hired Heather Winfrey and Terryll Bailey as consultants for this project.

Joan asked what the funding is? Each center has been given a \$75,000 grant to complete this work. There will be several work group meetings but the mid-assessment is due in January and the final product is due in May, 2009.

CCE Pathways to Apprenticeship: Julia asked members if we should host another event, should we do one this year or plan to do one every other year and should we change venues to cover more of the state, such as Spokane. Joan advocated doing another but outside King County. Members agreed Eastern Washington would be great, just more difficult. Dave suggested that since there are so many large events we host, this could be something we do every other year and move it around the state.

Arne is involved in the "School to Apprenticeship" (summer work program, part of Pierce County Career Connections, Trudy Poole is contact). In the past they had contractors and not enough applicants, but this year they had too many applicants for the number of representatives. Beth brought up the difficulty of reaching students through teachers and administration.

Dave made the point that we are only in a temporary slow down, with no financing for builders, we still need people in the pipeline for when the slowdown ends. Member's final decision was to try to coordinate with Spokane for next spring.

Annual Conference: Hosting a statewide conference/summit is one the CCE's deliverables mandated by SBCTC so Julia asked for topic suggestions. Peter Guzman suggested a

Statewide Apprenticeship Conference. One idea is to combine with other Centers, such as the Center of Energy, who is hosting a summit on current Green Policies/Legislation for educators and business.

Sean and Arne stated most all commercial builders know LEED and have certified employees, some state jobs are already requiring LEED. Sean thinks while the industry might be saturated with information, government, students and educators might be interested. Beth agrees that the Green theme is hot and a good idea. All members agree to combine for this summit.

Member Reports:

Arne: Gave report on his two summer apprentices and what a great experience it was.

Sean: Planning recruiting at the schools, message: future in construction is bright.

Beth: Department of Labor applied for grant to assist people displaced from residential building to help them gain the skills needed to move into commercial building, they are optimistic about getting the grant and will hear in the near future.

Dave: Working two School to Career programs, after several years of increasing enrollment they have bottomed out, not much participation, he thinks it may be fear of the current situation in the industry.

Melissa: Building Lifetime project is 1 ½ years into it and are talking about year three. The sponsors are still positive and getting results. The site contains changing survey questions, she will take any input for the question, just make sure it is a multiple choice or true/false question and tell her the correct answer. It is a good way to get results and change perceptions about construction.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 9th, 2008, 1pm to 3pm