

Construction Center of Excellence  
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 2005 Board Room 1:35 pm

Present: Bill Bower, Dick Chamblin, Leanne Liddicoat, Steve Ignac, Larry Leet, Rebecca Harrison  
Staff: Beth Arman, Judy Amico

### **Topics of Discussion:**

Updates:

- Instructors and Classes
- Math Project

Old Business – Construction Conference

- Sessions
- Lunch Speakers
- Title for the Conference
- Logistics

New Business

- Website for Construction Center of Excellence
- National Science Foundation Grant
- Additional Steering Committee Members?
- Date for next meeting

Bill Bowser opened the meeting with introductions:

Bill Bowser	Training Director PSE JATC
Dick Chamblin	Bates Technical College
Larry Leet	City of Seattle
Leanne Liddicoat	Executive Director AGCEF
Steve Ignac	Coordinator LADS Apprenticeship
Rebecca Harrison	Pierce County Construction Partnership

Bill called for approval of minutes from previous meeting. Minutes were approved.

### **UPDATES**

#### **Instructors and Classes**

We will be starting two new classes during the spring quarter. The first one will be “Spanish for Construction Supervisors”, which will start May 9, 2005. Jose Perry will be the instructor. Jose has a background as a journey level drywaller, is a native Spanish speaker, and also teaches for Steve Ignac, in the LADS program. He is very excited about teaching this class. Class will be focused on teaching the supervisor “buzz” words to help communicate effectively with Spanish-speaking workers. We looked into the Command Spanish Curriculum but decided we did not want to use it, as it was too expensive and too mechanical. We also looked at a curriculum outline that was developed for a special project at Rushforth Construction in Pierce County. Beth thanked Rebecca for sharing it. It will be a good foundation. We have talked about role-playing and tools to deal with everyday occurrences.

The second class will be a Construction ESL class, which will start in June. We have Bob Steurich to teach the technical portion. He has carpentry experience, graduated from an apprenticeship program in another state, owns his own business, and has taught carpentry at Lake Washington High School. (Note:

there has been a change of plans. Lisa Grothen will instead be the technical instructor. She teaches full-time for the college in the Job Skills for Trade & Industry program. She is a graduate of the LADS apprenticeship program, with years of experience in drywall and residential contracting.) David Dickson, from RTC, will be the ESL instructor.

Dick Chamblin talked about Pierce College's desire to find partners to articulate with their Construction Management Degree. Beth has talked with Colleen Valdheim from Pierce College and has shared information regarding our program. This would give students the option to take classes at RTC or Pierce County. Beth does feel there may be a challenge, though, in that the needs of students who want to enter the workforce with a two-year degree and transfer students are different. Many colleges around the country have ended up developing two different degree tracks to meet the different needs.

### **Math Project**

Beth has been too busy to do much on the Math Project, but she still wants to convene a group of applied math teachers and put together a booklet with construction-related math applications. This would be designed for high school teachers and, ultimately, their students, so that they could see how important and how relevant math is in pursuing a construction career. Dick also mentioned the importance of blueprints/schematics and CAD courses. Maybe they could be incorporated as well. Beth mentioned that RTC is an authorized AutoDesk Training Center. Leanne said that the AGC of Washington Education Foundation is getting funding to do another Summer Math Institute for teachers, this time in multiple cities. Bill Bowser expressed an interest in getting involved. Linda Nguyen will be giving a presentation to help promote the program.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Sessions**

The "draft" schedule for the Construction Conference was handed out. Beth went over the list of people that have confirmed to date.

1. The Bricklayers apprenticeship program will participate with their traveling show.
2. The "I Have a Hammer" traveling show will be participating.
3. Lisa Grothen and Amy O'Donnell will lead the Apprenticeship 101 session.
4. Dr. Paul Sommers, from Seattle University will be a keynote speaker on the 10<sup>th</sup>.
5. The surveying class will have a hands-on activity with students and surveying equipment.
6. The Operating Engineers will be bringing the crane simulator. Steve Ignac strongly recommended that we put together a sign up sheet for the crane simulator so people would not have to stand in line and could be visiting other booths and activities.

Bill Bowser volunteered one of his constituents to do a segment on "Renewable Energy Construction," as part of the Green Building Trends session. He asked if Beth if she preferred someone from the Bonneville Power Administration or someone more local; Beth said that either would be fine. Leanne heard that Jon Magnusson will be in town, but she is waiting for confirmation on whether he will be able to speak. Leanne requested that the "To Learn More" segment be combined with something else because she and Marc only have about a 15-minute presentation and it is set up for more than an hour. Or, they could simply have materials on display at a table. Marc asked if we may have funds to pay for the teachers subs if they come and participate in the "Best Practices from In-School Programs". Since the conference money comes from the Pierce County WDC, who got it from the Workforce Education and Training Coordinating Board, Rebecca will look and see if it is an allowed cost.

Other individuals/companies being approached are:

1. Joanne Murcar from Spokane CC who could talk about "Green Building Trends," along with someone from the Electrical apprenticeship program.

2. Jose Perry or Jimmy Mata, from the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters, may do a talk on “The New Face of Construction.” Leanne suggested including Tony Benjamin from the Contractors Development Competitiveness Center. Beth is trying to get someone from Bellingham Technical College that is involved in the “Road Less Graveled” event.

3. Michael Woo, from the Northwest Labor and Employment Law Office (LELO) could talk about LELO’s Re-licensing project, which offers help for people to get their license reinstated. Stephanie from Susan Crane’s office may talk about the “Working Wheels” program, which is an agency that has a fleet of vehicles for a cheap price. To qualify individuals need to go through classes and are validated to get a vehicle to get back to work. We had also discussed the “Occupational Drivers License” program, but at this time we do not have much information.

Beth will contact employers regarding “resolving worker recruitment and retention problems” and get in touch with other colleges to see if their students want to participate in the “Live Resumes” section.

### **Lunch Speakers**

For the lunch speaker on the education day, Leanne had suggested a talk from a woman in construction, explaining how she got into a non-traditional field. She is waiting to hear back from a woman who won an AGC Education Foundation scholarship in construction management and now works at Sellen. It may be hard for her to get away in the middle of the day, though. We discussed other alternatives for the education day, and a lunch speaker for the industry day. Two names were suggested: Dr. John Schaufelberger, from UW, and Ellen O’Brien-Saunders, from the Workforce Board.

### **Title for the Conference**

Beth asked if anyone had a catchy title. Dick suggested, and others concurred with, Construction Workforce Conference.

### **Logistics**

Beth needs to get together with Linda Nguyen to talk about how they should set up the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of the conference. This would be a smaller event; we would have construction skill panels from Spokane, Pierce County and the CCE. We would like to talk about: funding that each group has gotten from the state; what each group is doing; how we can support one another; and how to head off duplicating projects.

Rebecca will look into whether it would be an incentive for educators to get credit for attending the conference. Bill Bowser will put Beth on the agenda for the Washington State Apprenticeship Coordinators Association meeting, where she will be able to talk about the conference and also hand out flyers.

The flyer is being put together to send out to educational and industry sectors to let people know about the upcoming conference. It still needs to be revised and the committee offered some good suggestions. The main thing is we need to put something on flyer that will attract industry people and get them to come. Also, we need to put, on the RTC website and the flyer, the directions to offsite parking at courthouse. Judy has arranged for a shuttle bus to transport people back and forth. Rebecca has put the conference info in the Pierce County Construction Partnership newsletter again and we will send out a press release, which will also go on RTC’s website.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Construction Center of Excellence Website**

Progress has been slow. We have tried to work with RTC’s Information Services department, but they have been tied up with the main RTC website ([www.rtc.edu](http://www.rtc.edu)). We looked into other options for creating a website, but none have worked out. We now have an appointment on Friday to talk to the IS department

and the Public Information Office to discuss a template that we could start from. Beth asked the members if we could put their names and companies/organizations on the website and have links created. Everyone was fine with it. Rebecca's input was that the maintenance on the website can take a lot of time. Beth and Judy will ask Bob and Shayne during the meeting how to make sure we do not put too much time on maintenance.

**NSF Grant**

We are looking into writing a grant proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF). It is not definite yet, but we wanted to tell the committee about it, in case members might be approached in the near future and asked for a letter of support. May 19 is the deadline and we do not know if we have enough time to complete everything. The grant would be for Course Curriculum and Laboratory Improvement. We want to create a bridge program to help people transition from applied math and science to transferable classes, such as Calculus and Physics, that people would need for a four-year degree in Construction Management or Engineering. To write the grant, we would have to answer questions about the impact and benefit to society. We would go for an exploratory project, which can be for up to \$150,000 over a 2-3 year period.

**Additional Steering Committee Members**

At this time we are very light on construction companies on the steering committee. Beth asked for suggestions from the existing committee members. Some suggestions are:

- Barghausen Architectural Group from Tukwila, (425) 251-6222
- Sparling – Electrical Engineering company
- GGLO Architecture & Interior Design LLC, Seattle (206) 902-5514.

**Date for Next Meeting**

Committee members suggested meeting again in the middle of May, such as May 18, 19 or 25. Beth will check her calendar, as well as the availability of the room, and will get back to members.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM

CC: Marty Heilstedt

<b>TASKS</b>	<b>WHO IS RESPONSIBLE</b>
Finalize conference arrangements.	Beth, Judy, Leanne, and Rebecca
Determine plan for 3 <sup>rd</sup> day of conference.	Linda and Beth
Determine whether teachers should get credit for attending.	Rebecca
Confirm whether we can pay for subs and traveling expenses.	Rebecca
Pursue math booklet with lessons from construction teachers.	Beth
Develop CCE website, with help from other departments.	Beth and Judy
Determine feasibility of writing NSF grant proposal in this round.	Beth
Contact suggested companies for steering committee.	Beth
Finalize plans for next meeting, and notify committee.	Beth and Judy