



Construction Center of Excellence

Quarterly Steering Committee Meeting
Tuesday, December 9, 2008, 1:00pm to 3:00pm
Renton Technical College

Attendees: Julia Cordero, Shana Peschek, Beth Blanchard, Matt Gordon, Amy Martinez, Lee Newgent, Dave Perrin, Joan Weiss, Arne Reyier, Melissa Pressley, Peter Guzman, Kathy Swan, Anne Wetmore, Gay Kiesling, Kristi Grassman, Heather Winfrey

Member Introductions:

Dave Perrin acted as committee chair, facilitated member introductions, reminded attendees to sign in.

Topics of Discussion:

Guest Speaker Heather Winfrey gave a report on the Programs of Study project. The goal is to develop a cluster based state level model designed to assist students and parents to make good career path choices. It needs to tie to Navigation 101 and Core 24 to provide separate career paths based on college and career tracks. There are currently local-based POS. The state-level models won't be so detailed and will contain wrap-around resources. It will be a map resource for teachers, CTE directors, counselors, etc. to help give the best possible information. Final models will be done in May and will act as generic models that other COE's will be able to use for their pathways. Please contact Julia or Shana if you are interested in working on this project. In December, we will work on developing a calendar of upcoming meetings for template validation, design, and parental/industry input. On November 20, the COEs had a POS working meeting at the OSPI convention and got great feedback. Anne Wetmore asked if there is a way to show college track and career track that is not mutually exclusive. Heather said yes, they have high hopes to coordinate such an effort, especially for older students, they would like the completed model to show all opportunities. Heather and Terryll (our contractors) are currently finishing a "Thesaurus" of terms to help clarify terms that everyone uses but which might have slightly different meanings. .

Guest speaker Dave Wallace from Washington State Employment Security Department spoke on the Current Economic Climate of the Construction Industry. Dave reports that construction is a struggling industry in our state. 64% of the job losses in construction come from specialty trade contractors and the highest percent of these are residential. Washington was behind the nation in foreclosures but is catching up with delinquent mortgages increasing due to subprime mortgages. Since supply is exceeding demand, new construction is decreasing, having a huge impact on our construction industry. It is expected to recover in approximately one year. They expect to see growth in civil engineers, roofers, surveyors (especially if an economic stimulus package goes into effect).

Guest speaker Sue Hart spoke about the Construction Challenge event. Association of Equipment Manufacturers and Destination ImagiNation are working together to develop this program for students to have them solve real problems in the construction industry. Teams are made up of 5-7 students with one adult (21 or older) Team Manager. The event February 7th is being hosted by MBA and the cost is \$120.00 per team. There will be a total of 16 Regional Rallies Nationwide on this date. Teams advancing from these rallies will compete at the Construction Challenge Championship Finals May 19-23rd in Knoxville, TN. This event was started because it is believed by 2012 the construction industry will need one million or more new workers. The event targets junior high to high school students in an effort to promote the construction industry. The event challenges the students with questions, as well as hands on competition.

Member Reports

Peter Guzman reported on Pierce County Pathways to Apprenticeship, October 10th, 2008 at Bates Technical College in Tacoma. There were 70 attendees, and the event consisted of guest speakers in the morning, workshops, best practice topics and tours of apprenticeship programs in the afternoon. Based on participant surveys, there was a very positive response. Many didn't know about apprenticeship programs or how to find them. There is still a gap between apprenticeship and education that needs to be bridged.

Kristi Grassman reported on Pierce County Construction Career Days. 950 students attended, indicating huge participation, with great sponsors supporting the event. It was held at the Puyallup Fairgrounds. This time around, there were some tents but next year, the organizers plan to rent more buildings. There were over 30 pieces of heavy equipment for students to try – next year they hope to have even more. The bricklaying was a huge hit and the laborers had a “jumping jack”. She has DVD's and pictures on the PCCC website. The Herald ran an article on the event and the organizers would like more media coverage next year as well.

Joan Weiss reported on Green Expo, October 10th at the Puget Sound Industrial Excellence Center. There were over 250 people in attendance representing businesses, labor, government, educators etc. Bernie Karl from Alaska (proprietor of Chena Hot Springs) did a geothermal renewable energy presentation. There were a number of workshops including CTE pathways to green collar success. A DVD is being put together on the event. KIRO covered it and their interviews are on the website. There are already plans to do another event.

Director's Report

Updates:

- Intro to Historic Preservation class
- Green Building DVD
- Speakers Bureau/Effective Presentation Seminar
- Pathways to Apprenticeship event in Spokane

New Business

- State Board for Community and Technical Colleges Update Re: Centers of Excellence
- Combined COE Annual Conference

Additional Updates from Committee Members

Beth Blanchard from WDC has been asked by Second Chance to gather information on Sectors, are there any gaps? The information she needs is:

- Are there some apprenticeship programs open now that incumbent, low wage workers can go into?
- Are there any issues with work experience? Is it hard for apprentices to get work experience? What about retention problems?
- What happens to a slot in an apprenticeship program if the apprentice drops out?

If anyone has information about these questions they can email Beth at bblanchard@seaking.wdc.org.