TAA Program Advisory Board Minutes

March 18, 2013, A230

Attendees:

Chrissy Callicoate, Caddo Parish Public Schools
Denise Chambers, Participant Performance Monitor, BPCC
Jason Cooper, Campus Lead, BPCC
Susan Evans, Libbey Glass
Peggy Fuller, Dean, Business Division and Academic Advising, BPCC
Pam Glorioso, City of Bossier City Mayor’s Office
Laura Goadrich, Dean of Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics, BPCC
Dalia Gumeel, Help Desk Program Director, BPCC
Jim Henderson, Chancellor, BPCC
Melvin Jack, Student, BPCC
Cynthia McCreary, Student Services Specialist
Sally Namie, Bossier Parish School Board
Sandra Partain, Division of Science, Nursing, & Allied Health
Barrow Peacock, LA State Senator, District 37
Christina Poole, Consortium Grants Accountant, BPCC
Stan Wilkins, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, BPCC

Shortly after 11 o’clock a.m. Jason Cooper welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided general background information on the TAACCCT grant and I-BEST model. He drew everyone’s attention to the pushcard, which provides a brief description of the program. The program was modeled after the I-BEST program pioneered in Washington State in 2005. Systematic changes will be needed at the State level after the program has proven to be successful.

Jason continued by describing the four pathways: Cyber Security, Industrial Technology, Digital Gaming, and Health Informatics. Classes are already in place for all pathways except for Health Informatics, and all pathways have Information Technology in common. For the purposes of the grant, all pathways must have 2 common courses across all 9 campuses. Then the next 2 classes will be common to each pathway.

The committee was provided a printout of the Cyber/Networking pathway is available for reference at the end of these minutes. The next pathway to be designed will be Industrial Technology. Each pathway allows students to see what types of jobs they may receive at certain stages in their career, an important thing, because one main purpose of the grant is to help students enter the workforce quickly. The classes being offered this spring are CIS 100 and CIT 110. CIS 100 is an introductory course mapped to the IC3 certification. Embedded within this course is foundational mathematics from Math 097. CIT 110 has been the Help Desk Support class but it is morphing into an ethics course, with embedded basic skills content as well as learning outcomes from EDU 099. The next set of classes this spring are CIT 112 (A+),
CIS 105 (a computer concepts course with embedded Math 099), TEED 145, and TEED 146 (with embedded Math 098, EDU 099, and ENG 098). This first cohort of 7 students has had a stellar semester. The concepts for Math 097 were completed within the first three weeks, as most students just needed a brush-up on their math skills. Cohort members have developed a group mentality and are looking forward to remaining a group through this entire program. All but one student were non-traditional.

Jason Cooper then explained that this advisory board is meeting for several reasons. First, our accreditation body requires industry input. Next, it is also a grant requirement, and lastly, the instructors want to teach what is needed and current in the industry. After the consortium curricula meeting (scheduled for Friday, March 22), Jason will contact the board for their continued feedback.

Dr. Jim Henderson, BPCC Chancellor, is very excited about what this model can do for education and remediation. The model will save time and money for students and the State in the long run.

The remainder of the Cyber pathway will be offered in the upcoming summer and fall semesters. The current cohort will complete the program in December and three new cohorts will begin in the fall.

At this point, Dean Laura Goadrich suggested roundtable introductions and brief descriptions of how everyone is involved.

Jason Cooper resumed the discussion by explaining that success will be measured with learning outcomes and Compass test scores. Each student was Compass tested at the beginning of the semester and will test at the end of the semester to determine their progress.

Dr. Henderson interjected with news of a recent, unsolicited offer from the Gates Foundation for BPCC to submit a proposal for consideration. He remarked that obviously this grant and program are creating a lot of buzz.

Denise Chambers, the Participant Performance Monitor, took a few moments to describe recruitment efforts. She and Cynthia McCreary are in contact with LA Works, local VA representatives, and high schools in Caddo, Bossier, and Webster parishes. Booker T. Washington High School invited them out to speak with students and Denise has plans to contact the Chamber of Commerce’s military affairs committee. Denise also stressed the importance of word-of-mouth and leaving pushcards and flyers around town. The staff at the campus advising center has also been vigilant at identifying potential students and putting them in contact with Denise and Cynthia. The success of this model is the wrap-around services provided by the Participant Performance Monitor and Student Services Specialist.

Other states implementing the I-BEST model are struggling in different ways, but Washington is the most successful and serves as a model for all.

The question was raised by an industry member what the cost is to the student. Students pay no costs other than tuition and fees. There is no additional cost for this program.

To place students in successful jobs upon completion, industry support is needed in the form of internships.
Jason Cooper invited Melvin Jack, a student currently enrolled in the program to share a few words about his experiences thus far. Melvin, a veteran diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, thanked BPCC for the program. He feels special and has noticed an increase in his confidence and motivation. Melvin didn’t feel he would be a good college student but with this program he is succeeding. He also commented that this learning style fits veterans perfectly, and he feels “this could save lives.”

After hearing Melvin’s story, Sandra Partain commented that the connections and feeling of community are what really seem to be setting this program apart. She recommended a graduate survey be created to track students’ stories after they complete the program.

Susan Evans, of Libbey Glass, inquired about the total number of classes and students. Eventually there should be four groups of 25 students that will take roughly 10 classes each to complete the program. With upcoming changes at Libbey Glass, she believes that this will be a great opportunity for those workers that will soon be displaced.

Jason Cooper went through the curricula for the Certificate of Technical Studies in Help Desk Support and the Certificate of Technical Studies in Information System Security Professional. Each of these certificates will be utilized by this program, but will need to be modified and renamed to fit the criteria. The proposed change to Help Desk Support is to rename it Health Informatics. Classes will be changed after the consortium curriculum meeting later this week. The Information Systems Security Professional will also be renamed after the curriculum meeting. Sandra Partain moved that the names for each of these certificates be changed. Sally Namie seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion passed.

With this business concluded, the group adjourned for lunch and personal discussion. The meeting ended at 12:15pm.