Bossier Parish Community College

TAACCCT Advisory Committee Meeting

Friday, October 11, 2013

Minutes

Attendees:

Jason Cooper – Campus Lead
Jennifer Lawrence – I-BEST Instructor
Gayle Flowers – Director, Career, Adult, and Alternative Education, Caddo Parish School Board
Johnette Magner – Executive Director, Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education
Dalia Gumeel – CIT Instructor
Liz Maw-Naing – Moonbot Studios, Human Resources
Barrow Peacock – Senator, District 37
Cynthia McCreary – Student Services Specialist
Christina Poole – Consortium Grant Accountant
Megan Martin – I-BEST Instructor
Peggy Fuller – Dean, Business and Career Services
Lesa Taylor-Dupree – Associate Vice Chancellor of Planning and Instruction
Jim Henderson – Chancellor, BPCC
Sally Namie – Bossier Parish Schools (retired)
Laura Goadrich – Dean, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
Kelly Johnson – Workforce Commission
Sandra Partain – Program Coordinator, Science, Nursing, and Allied Health
Denise Chambers – Participant Performance Monitor

Bossier Parish Community College’s Chancellor, Dr. Jim Henderson, welcomed everyone to the meeting shortly after 2:00pm. He highlighted several great projects on campus, including the construction of a new training facility and the recent TAACCCT Round 3 grant award of approximately $3.5 million. In addition to these, external evaluators have recently visited the campus for the TAACCCT Round 2 Gulf Coast IT Pathways grant and have been very impressed with the progress made so far.

Following roundtable introductions, Jason Cooper provided a background of TAACCCT and the I-BEST model. Our Round 2 project has four (4) pathways, all sharing a common theme of information technology. These pathways are Cyber Security, Digital Gaming, Industrial Technology, and Health Informatics. Each pathway gives students options for entering the workforce along their path to a Bachelor’s degree. In Round 2 remedial or basic skills are embedded into coursework, per the I-BEST model. With this grant project our mission is to first help dislocated workers and veterans re-enter the workforce, and then open enrollment to all other interested students.
Jason Cooper reviewed the provided curriculum examples and highlighted the upcoming changes to be made. Sets of four courses make up the core for each pathway, with two courses being common among all pathways. The following two courses will vary depending on the pathway.

Health Informatics is a combination of the health, business, and information technology worlds. New changes in the healthcare industry are demanding employees have some knowledge of information technology. Currently, the health informatics pathway is under construction, but will be a welcome addition to the grant, to campus, and to Shreveport-Bossier.

In Spring 2013, a test cohort of students was enrolled in the cyber and industrial pathways. The first full cohort of students began in Summer 2013. Funneling students into the program is not as easy as originally planned. The method of testing has been switched from Compass-only to a combination of Compass and TABE tests. TABE allows for diagnostics with further detail. A meeting was recently held at Delgado Community College with the content knowledge leads to discuss diagnostic issues across the consortium. All campuses seem to be experiencing difficulties effectively testing students. Several solutions are in the works to help students with the math difficulties they experience. Contextualization of math concepts in the courses is more difficult than contextualizing English concepts. A focus group was held the Friday morning to bring math and technical instructors together to discuss these issues here at BPCC. Other things are also available on campus that help students and instructors with these math difficulties, including Open Campus and a recently-hired mathematics tutor.

Laura Goadrich and Jennifer Lawrence shared examples from their CIT 112 class about how they are successfully integrating mathematics into the content through binary. Gail Flowers suggested a matrix be provided to the students at the conclusion of the course showing the math skills they have mastered. She believes this would decrease future trepidation for students about upcoming mathematics courses.

Johnette Magner inquired about the origins of the math problems experience by students. Is it with the school systems? And is there a plan to report on this information later? She also suggested focusing on mathematics/teacher instruction at the elementary and middle school levels instead of focusing on the students. She also encouraged us to work with the LA Workforce Commission.

Associate Vice Chancellor Lesa Taylor-Dupree commented that BPCC’s ACT composite score has increased over the past few years, due, in part, to welcoming students at all levels of education.

With no further questions or discussion, the meeting concluded at 3:30pm.

The next Advisory Committee Meeting will be Friday, March 21, 2014 at 2:00pm.