

# **CENTER OF EXCELLENCE**

## **Power Plant Operations**

### **Centralia College**

# ***ADVISORY COMMITTEE***

## **NOTES**

Friday, December 3, 2004  
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

### **Advisory Committee Members**

*Rick Bradshaw*

*\*Gary Clark*

*Patti Connolly*

*Jose Diaz*

*Jim Frazier*

*\*Roger Gestrine*

*Jim Guenther*

*Bob Gust*

*\*Barbara Hins-Turner*

*Brad Holmes*

*\*Kim Howell*

*Mark A. Johnson*

*Mark S. Johnson*

*\*Charles Lascera*

*Duncan McCaig*

*Pat McCarty*

*\*Don McLeod*

*\*Steve Miller*

*Len Moreau*

*Jay Pickett*

*Tanya Price*

*\*Barbara Revo*

*\*Rob Smith*

*Margie Taylor*

*Jeff Walsh*

*\*Arnie Winkler*

*Dr. James Walton*

*\*Roy Zimmerman*

\*Denotes members not present

### **Committee Notes**

1. Margie welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves.

Members were asked to review the notes from the September 26, 2004 meeting.

2. Members divided into groups and toured the Chehalis Power facilities.

3. Mark updated members on the Power Plant Operations class for Fall Quarter. He said we started with 27 students and ended with 24. Approximately 90% of the students did very well, as per Roger Gestrine. Mark also announced the “crash-course” being offered between Fall and Winter quarters. He said this is an intense course and would need to have students who have a solid

background in mathematics and are ready to put in a large amount of time and effort.

Dr. Walton told members that we will be receiving \$250,000 in grant money from the Federal Department of Labor. This will pay for equipment and possibly a full-time director/instructor. He said our program needs to make contact with the hierarchy of our partnering organizations so we will have strong demonstrated financial support. This will help to get more organizations interested around the region.

Members discussed training tools for students. Rick Bradshaw mentioned using websites to get useful information. He also said that he has designed a simulation exercise on a disk, which would be a cheaper and easier way for students to get “hands on” learning.

Dr. Walton mentioned that we are pushing to recruit women and other minorities to join the program. Jose Diaz discussed the Latino Summit that was held for ESL students. He said we are continuing to work with Hispanics and are really pushing to expand radio education for them. He asked for names of Hispanic associates in the industry or member organizations so we can have contacts for potential students. Patti Connolly said Manny Gomez, a member of her organization, would be a great mentor to the Hispanic students.

Mark discussed the UETA website and said we are trying to integrate industry members, colleges, and job availability. We want to include members such as BPA, Portland Gas & Electric, etc.

Mark said the Reference Library will be a great tool for students to have access to different products and companies. It's also a good way to attract potential donors. Duncan McLeod offered to send over vendor information, such as PowerPoint presentations and technical information for our reference library.

4. Mark told members that we would like to set up industry tours at our partnering organizations. Duncan said he might be able to arrange some demonstrations or plant visits.

Margie said the internships have been a wonderful experience for TransAlta. “They have been truly exceptional and we would definitely like to continue with the program.” Mark encouraged members to go back to their companies and discuss organizing internships at their facilities.

The topic of Co-op studies was tabled until the next Advisory Committee meeting.

5. Mark asked members for any surplus equipment they might have. The combination of donations and buying new/used equipment should help to start the lab. He also asked what type of equipment would be useful for our students to train with. "The plan is to obtain simulators that have instructor-built faults in them so that students will get expert 'hands-on' training." Duncan said there might be equipment we can use on a "loan" basis. Members were asked to send any training materials to the Health Sciences Annex room 107.

Margie mentioned creating a "wish list" so our organizations will have a better idea of what we'll need for the lab.

Mark stressed the importance of having and keeping great communication between the Center for Excellence and our partnering organizations. He asked members to be aware of new information coming through their hands and to please forward it to us by email.

Members asked us to set up something at the college so they can forward information.

Mark said there is an urgent need to get better documentation to make licensing be uniform. The National Institute for the Uniform Licensing of Power Engineers (NIULPI) asked us to help create skills standards, however we need to research more companies to see who the most qualified is to partner with.

Brad Holmes offered to host the next meeting at TransAlta.

6. Adjournment