

**Center of Excellence  
Advisory Board Meeting  
Centralia College  
April 21, 2010, 1-3pm**

Sites and Attendance:

**Centralia College**

Judy Guenther, Centralia College  
Pat McCarty, Tacoma Power (chair)  
Troy Nutter, Puget Sound Energy  
Dick Larman, Lewis County Economic Development Council  
Bob Guenther, IBEW Local 77  
Stan Ratcliff, Satsop Development Park  
Barbara Hins-Turner, Center of Excellence for Energy  
Jim Lowery, WIRED  
Martha Henderson, Evergreen State College  
Anne Wetmore, US Dept of Labor Office of Apprenticeship  
Fred Hennigie, Grays Harbor College  
Mike Kelly, Grays Harbor College  
Tom Bougher, Veterans Conservation Corp  
Ryan Davis, RETC, Satsop Campus  
Ed Bowen, Veterans Conservation Corp  
Jeff Frias, Centralia College  
Durelle Sullivan, Centralia College  
Kairie Pierce, Washington State Labor Council  
Cindy Mann, Centralia College  
Mark Fischer, Veterans Conservation Corp  
Jamie Krause, Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council  
Karen Devenaro, Seattle City Light  
John Loyle, Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council  
Tom Lindmark, Portland General Electric  
Ashaki Anthony, Seattle City Light

**Peninsula**

Jeff Reyes, Veterans Conservation Corp  
Bob Lawrence Peninsula College

**Wenatchee Valley College**

Riva Morgan, Wenatchee Valley College

### **Seattle City Light - Boundary Plant**

Jay Pickett, Manager Boundary/Lucky Peak, Seattle City Light  
Lonnie Johnson, Boundary Generation Supervisor, Seattle City Light  
Skip Luhr, Hydro Machinist Crew Chief, Local 79 and Seattle City Light  
Del Grotle, Generation Electrical Constructor, Local 77 and Seattle City Light

### **Spokane**

Mike Hanson, Avista  
Dale Singer, Avista  
Christy Doyle, Spokane Community College

### **Chemeketa**

Bob Topping, Chemeketa Community College

### **Minutes**

Pat McCarty, Chair brought meeting to order; sites and introductions followed.

### **U.S. Department of Labor ARRA Smart Grid Workforce Training Grant**

Barbara Hins-Turner thanked the committee for the collaborative work done on the U.S. Department of Energy ARRA Smart Grid Training Grant. The grant was announced by Senator Cantwell's office on April 8 awarding the Center of Excellence \$4,998,849 with Centralia College serving as fiscal agent. The grant will develop the Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy. Special thanks were expressed to the following: Kairie Pierce and the Washington State Labor Council for bringing the AFL-CIO Presidents in all four states into the project; Seattle City Light team was involved throughout the writing process; Troy Nutter, PSE worked over the Thanksgiving holiday rewriting the executive summary and governor's letter; Troy and Alan Hardcastle, WSU Extension Energy Program edited the final document; Bob Guenther, IBEW and Avista lobbied the Idaho governor to support the project and as a result a joint letter of support was submitted by the governors of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana; Bob Topping brought in Oregon & Utah partners. At the point in writing that the occupational demand numbers did not warrant the ask, the project was expanded to include supply side occupations in addition to the already identified demand side occupations. Mike Hanson brought the Avista line school with its training expertise and over \$2 million in match into the project. The governance board is currently being formed. Troy, Alan and Barbara have been working together to develop the governance structure and articles.

Bob Topping – Chemeketa Community College, Oregon and WestCAMPS, Utah will provide extensive literature on hazard reviews and hazard analysis on the smart grid with Rocky Mountain Power. The first activity will be job hazard analysis associated with smart gridding. Secondly, they will provide an extension library of information on job hazard analysis in relationship to grid and proximity hazard. The documents will be digitized and made available through the web portal to all the project partners. Bob's past experience includes 15 years researching energy industry workforce needs and training

for the electrical industry. He spent time in Utah working with seven power generation plants and coal mines through both a Department of Labor and Department of Energy grant. The research findings of the project was that the average age of coal miners is over 58, plant operators 62 and dispatchers 65. A model was designed to document competency, understand what is mission critical and build skill sets into training programs for a specific environment. Bob is employed with Chemeketa working on biomass power generation using agriculture waste to generate power through distributed power generation.

Troy Nutter stated that while Puget Sound Energy is not a direct recipient of any of the grant funding, they have a great interest in the safety aspect, curriculum development and work products from this grant. They will provide subject matter experts for the project. He noted that whether or not organizations are direct recipients or advisory all partners will gain something from this project. Troy thanked the Centralia College finance department for their work on the grants.

Mike Hanson announced that Avista was awarded \$20 million through The Department of Energy ARRA Smart Grid Technology for Transmission and Distribution. They are discussing how the training should be developed and how both grants can be leveraged.

Bob Guenther stated that IBEW as a multistate organization wants to ensure that this grant is successful, return on investment is realized, and Senator Cantwell and the department that awarded this grant can be proud of the results at the end of three years. The goal is to have an outcome that is beneficial to everyone not only to the union members but for the companies that need to make a profit. He stressed that a governance committee is needed that can look at the big picture for the full three years. This is a chance for the Northwest to be successful and create a world class smart grid system that will be known not only throughout the United States but throughout the world.

**Regional Education and Training Center (RETC), Satsop Campus, Ryan Davis, Executive Director**

- RETC is officially certified as national crane operators training site.
- RETC is hosting a fact-finding forum on May 5 along with University of Washington Tacoma Key Bank Professional Development Center to gauge interest in a new teaching annex in Grays Harbor, which could provide a wide range of professional certifications and training. The forum will be held Wednesday, May 5, 2010 from 3-5PM at the Flex Tech Building, Satsop Development Center, 100 Technology Lane SDP 6, Elma. Please RSVP to Kathryn Fredrick at 360-482-1755 or [kathryn.fredrick@retc-satsop.org](mailto:kathryn.fredrick@retc-satsop.org)
- The Learning Management System (LMS) pilot site portal is active. On-site training will held the week of May 10th. Partners are invited to participate in training. Cornerstone on Demand is the vendor. For more information please see their website <http://www.cornerstoneondemand.com/>

### **WIRED Report, Jim Lowery, Energy WIRED Coordinator**

- The WIRED grant funding will end June 30, 2010. The energy sector results include: securing Process Logical Control (PLC) equipment in the amount of \$125,000 for RETC currently being used by Grays Harbor Community College and \$43,000 in energy program equipment at New Market Skills Center; WSU Extension Energy Program completed Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency studies and Wind Turbine Technician Skill standards; We Bring the Power video was produced about careers in the energy industry designed for recruiting K-12 students. [www.centralia.edu/coe/](http://www.centralia.edu/coe/)
- Demonstration model and laser alignment equipment were purchased; two training sessions were held at Trans Alta with 18 employees trained on both their current laser alignment plus the new laser alignment equipment.
- Bob Guenther mentioned that TransAlta received the laser alignment training because they laid the foundation for the Energy Technology program and Center of Excellence at Centralia College.
- Energy Efficiency customer training was offered to Public Utility Districts in the Pacific Mountain Region. Three workshops were delivered at Pacific County PUD. Rulon Crawford, Centralia College 1<sup>st</sup> year Energy Technology instructor taught the classes. There were approximately 80 customers total in attendance at the three workshops.
- Troy Nutter and Jim represented the Center of Excellence on a panel at the National Association of Workforce Boards coordinated by the Center for Energy Workforce Development. Troy discussed the CoE structure and history and Jim presented the partnership with Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Council and WIRED grant.
- Troy Nutter and the board members publicly thanked Jim and acknowledged him for his work on WIRED.

### **Grays Harbor College Energy Technology Certificate Program, Mike Kelly and Fred Hennigie**

- Grays Harbor College requested endorsement from the advisory board members for the Power Operations 45 credit Certificate of Completion. Bob Guenther motioned the board endorse the certificate and motion was seconded by Ryan Davis. Motion passed unanimously, duly noted and approved.
- Fred Hennigie gave an overview of the Process Logical Control (PLC) as one segment of the program; program includes lecture delivered online through Angel; WIRED grant provided \$125,000 for lab equipment to the program; 12 students were enrolled in the pilot class. (See attached Power Operations Certificate of Completion)
- Mike Kelly announced that during the upcoming Centers of Excellence summit The PLC lab will be open for tours.
- Barbara raised the need for the labor market data for the program and suggested the focus be on both Power Plant Operators and Substation Operators. John Loyle offered to research Substation Operator demand in the region and update Demand/Decline list accordingly.

## **2010 Summit Update**

- Barbara introduced the summit planning team members: Judy Guenther, Ryan Davis, Kairie Pierce, Tom Bougher Martha Henderson, Jim Lowery and Sean Bagsby. The next summit planning meeting will be held at the Washington State Labor Council building in Olympia on Thursday, April 29 at 1PM.
- Donations are being accepted for the scholarship auction. Contact Judy Guenther for donations.
- Julia Cordero, Director for the Construction Center of Excellence at Renton Technical College has left the Center. Shana Peschek has been appointed the interim Director and is the construction contact for summit.
- Ryan Davis is following up on new sponsors. Ryan has submitted an official request to Senator Inslee's office for a flag donation.
- Tom Bougher offered to donate a case of wine; Seth will donate a flag circulated through Iraq and a stained glass window for the scholarship auction.
- Summit Sponsorships committed to date: Panglobal Publishing - \$1500 and two scholarships, Labvolt - \$500 and \$500 in wine, Klein - \$300 and Veterans Conservation Corp - \$300.

## **Jim Lowery shared information on Innovation Competition & Showcase**

- The Centers of Excellence for Energy, Construction, Marine are sponsoring a High School Industry Innovation Competition & Showcase. Applications were submitted by high school teams across the state to develop "Green Sustainable" projects to be previewed at the State Apprenticeship Council meeting in May. The CoE for Energy selected Centralia High School and Growing Places Energy Park project for the competition. The CoE awarded a grant in the amount of \$4000 for the project.

## **Jay Pickett, Seattle City Light Boundary**

- Jay spoke on Seattle City Light's work with Colville high school. A long distance basic electricity training program was offered by Spokane Community College's Institute for Extended Learning (IEL). Students participated in Ione, Newport and Colville, Washington in a 66 hour basic electricity course. The program is supported by participants of the skill panel that include Workforce Development, Economic Development, Rural Resources, local industry, several K-12 programs, SCC and SCC IEL. Through this initiative curriculum was developed for a training path for K-12 parties to build Articulation, Running Start, and Tech Prep agreements to feed a distance based certificate program. The program will support completion of a 2 year technical degree at SCC in Spokane. The Boundary Project works with local industries and Selkirk High School to put journey workers in the classroom. The past two years, efforts have increased with donations of over \$10,000 per year of labor to support the high school Industrial Skills program.

## **Director's Report, Barbara Hins-Turner:**

### Conferences

- Barbara Hins-Turner and Jim Lowery represented the Center of Excellence at Harvesting Clean Energy Conference hosted by Climate Solutions on February 7th & 8th, Kennewick. Barbara participated in the conference planning team and coordinated the Workforce Sessions which included panel discussions on Renewable Energy moderated by Dr Alan Hardcastle, WSU Extension Energy Program and Energy Efficiency moderated by Barbara. 500 people attended the conference representing industry, labor, education, workforce and government. The Centers of Excellence for Energy and Agriculture, Walla Walla Community College co-hosted a vendor booth.
- Workforce Education Council (WEC) hosted by Clark College, February 11 & 12, Vancouver. Representing the Centers as Chair of the Center of Excellence Board of Directors, Barbara Hins-Turner presented the integration of the WEC and Center work plans, projects and 2010 goals.
- U.S.-Canada Clean Energy Forum, Toronto, Canada, February 17 & 18. Barbara presented at the U.S. Canada Clean Energy Forum. Barbara's presentation focused on the conference theme, "Building the Power Workforce of Tomorrow". The Center of Excellence model was presented as a sector strategy and the integration of skilled workforce needs into training and education programs. The forum represents an agreement between U.S. Energy Secretary Chu and Canadian Minister of the Environment Jim Prentice creating the U.S.-Canada Clean Energy Dialog Action Plan.
- Barbara represented the Center of Excellence at the Western Energy Institute (WEI), 2010 Spring Energy Symposium Sustainable Resources Track, March 8 & 9, Tempe, AZ, Conference theme was "Consistency Amidst Change" focused on sustainable practices in changing landscape of the energy industry and Western Regional Boilers Association Conference, March 16 & 17, Seattle, Conference focused on changing of Carbon Credits, new Air Regulation and Grid connecting boiler operation opportunities.

### Skills Standards Update

- The Wind Technician Skill Standards have been completed through a collaborative effort with WSU Extension Energy Program, Center of Excellence, and partnerships with industry, labor, and other community and technical colleges. Funding for the project was provided by WIRED, Energy Northwest and Montana State University. Walla Walla Community College will be the first to implement the standards basing curriculum for their new Wind Technician program on the standards. :  
<http://www.wa-skills.com/energy.html>
- Bob Guenther reported that he shared the Wind Standards with Larry Bell, Alaska Business Manager/Financial Secretary, IBEW Local 1547.

## Career Resource Guide

- SBCTC requested that all Centers of Excellence develop Career Resource Guides featuring CTC programs across the system relative to each industry sector. The Energy Guide includes 19 colleges now delivering energy programs up from five programs in 2005. Programs are in “niche” areas such as Shoreline’s solar program, Walla Walla’s Wind Program, Columbia Basin’s Nuclear Program and Centralia’s Power Operations Program. The guide is posted on the Center of Excellence website: <http://www.centralia.edu/coe/programs.html>

## A.A.S Power Operations Energy Technology Student Numbers and Placement (Centralia, Peninsula, Wenatchee Valley and Grays Harbor Colleges):

- 90 first year students, 35 2nd year students –
- Thirteen 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Energy Technology student applications were selected for the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) pre-employment exam as a prequalification for the 2010 BPA Apprenticeship pool. Ten of the students successfully passed the exam including one Running Start student that is currently a high school senior. Five interviewed for substation operator positions and two were hired. This is the 4th consecutive year BPA has recruited Centralia College Energy Tech students. BPA cut all line and electrician apprenticeship hiring this year.
- One student was hired by TransAlta in February for the new JATC apprenticeship program.

## 2010 Center Assessments

- The State Board of Community and Technical Colleges is in the process of conducting performance assessments for the 11 Centers of Excellence. The last assessments were held in 2006. The Center of Excellence for Energy assessment was held March 31, 2010 with an all day session conducted by Jim Crabbe, former SBCTC Workforce Director that included interviews with Center staff, Workforce Dean, VP of Instruction and President. 2010/11 Performance Based funding of centers will be dependent on the results of the assessment. Full report of assessment results is expected in June.

## Centers of Excellence Sustainability Project

- Dr Alan Hardcastle is conducting a research project on the affects of sustainability on the industries represented by Centers of Excellence. Ryan Davis, RETC Director and Jim Lowery presented concept to Congressmen Inslee and Baird in DC during NWAB meeting. RETC has provided \$20,000 to launch the project with the Center of Excellence for Aerospace and Advanced Materials Management to design the model that will be implemented for all centers. RETC submitted an appropriation request through Congressman Norm Dicks office in partnership with the 11 Centers of Excellence and Washington State University Extension Energy Program in the amount of \$750,000 to fund a full scale project.

## **For the Good of the Order:**

Ann Wetmore shared information on Pacific Northwest Apprenticeship Education Conference on May 19 & 20, 2010, Tacoma Convention and Trade Center

- Sponsored in part by: Washington State Department of Labor and Industries – Apprenticeship Section, United States Department of Labor - Office of Apprenticeship, Washington State Apprenticeship & Training Council and Washington State Employment Security Department; **Registration is available at <http://www.apprenticeshipconference.com>; Apprenticeship2010@gmail.com**
- Three scholarships, registration and rooms (\$405 each) were awarded to Centralia College Energy Tech students by the Thurston, Mason, Lewis County Labor Council to attend the conference.
- Stan Ratcliff- Satsop Development Park noted that concrete is being poured at the PDA for an acoustical testing area where the control room was located. Universities in Pennsylvania, Canada and Europe have expressed interest in conducting research projects at the Grays Harbor PDA.
- Kairie Pierce announced her new position as the K-12 Apprenticeship Director, a project funded through an earmark from Senator Patti Murray. The goal is to inform high school counselors about apprenticeship and build relationships with communities so conversations can continue beyond the life of the grant.
- Martha Henderson-Evergreen State College shared the Seattle forest service will be conducting a cultural project and is looking at the Puget Sound peninsula as a study case. Evergreen is in the design phase of a gasification plan for the campus.

**Meeting adjourned**