

Washington State Team Ag Ed Meeting

October 1, 2010 between 1:15pm and 2:50pm
Wenatchee Valley College, Wenatchee, Washington

Team Ag Ed Members in Attendance:

Lloyd Thompson, Washington Association of Agricultural Educators
Tamara Whitcomb, Washington Association of Agricultural Educators
Steve Russell, Washington Association of Agricultural Educators
Mike Swan, Washington State University
Wayne Gillman, State Supervisor for Ag Ed & Science
Jodi Monroe, FFA
Jaime Clarke, Agriculture Center of Excellence

Guests in Attendance:

Gary Parkert, Washington Association of Agricultural Educators
Leo Garcia and Francisco Sarmiento, Wenatchee Valley College

Organizational Background:

Steve Russell provided a brief overview of Team Ag Ed's history and formation. He shared changes over time in the organization and encouraged team members that the organization needed to move to the next level.

Educational Partner Updates:

Washington State University

Mike Swan presented updates from Washington State University (WSU) focusing on two topics, 1) articulation agreements with community and technical colleges, and 2) hiring a new faculty member in Agriculture Education. Mike shared that articulation agreements with community and technical colleges would need to adhere to a two-plus-two program. This articulation structure enables students to complete their studies at WSU in two years. The agriculture and agriculture-related programs at WSU are currently changing their credit loads, which will impact articulations. Mike encouraged articulations in two program areas: Integrated Plant Sciences and Agriculture and Food Science. He also provided information on replacing Dr. Marv Kleene's position, vacated following Dr. Kleene's retirement. The position will be filled and is listed as a priority appointment at WSU. Mike is hopeful that a new faculty member will be hired this year.

Agriculture Center of Excellence

Jaime Clarke shared that a primary focus for community and technical colleges will be transitioning students into the workforce as quickly as possible. To better serve the colleges the Agriculture Center of Excellence (Center) will be focusing on Tech Prep and four-year college/university articulations that are in-demand. Jaime shared the agricultural occupations in-demand in Washington are diverse including: Agricultural Workers, Biological Technicians, Book and Audit Clerks, Computer Support Specialists, Environmental Protection Technicians, Farm and Home Management Advisors, Farm Workers and Laborers, First-line Landscaping Supervisors, Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers, and Veterinary Technicians. The skill set that is most needed by individuals entering the workforce is: math, writing, and soft skills.

Old Business:

Industry Representation

The meeting attendees discussed the continued need for industry representation on Team Ag Ed. The conversation included: what professional characteristics a representative needed, how Team Ag Ed can add value to the representatives industry/organization, and who should be contacted. After a lengthy exchange it was decided that the industry representatives should have some or all of the following characteristics: a background in plant and soil science, a mid-level to high-level industry position, and a position in the industry that hires or interviews. Following the discussion it was decided that Jaime will contact potential industry representatives to serve on Team Ag Ed.

New Business:

Organizational Management

A conversation was held to determine organizational management or oversight, including a team member to generate meeting agendas and minutes. It was decided that Jaime will facilitate Team Ag Ed providing administrative support and encouraging timely communication of team members. Jaime will not serve as the meeting chair; however, will be the point of contact for agenda items and committee work to be completed by Team Ag Ed.

Priorities for 2010-2011

Attending team members discussed the need to establish priorities and committees to complete work outside of Team Ag Ed meetings. Three priorities were developed and committee chairs designated, 1) 2011 WAAE BBQ (George Ruddell), 2) Publicity (Jaime Clarke), and 3) Skill Standards Updates (Mike Swan).