

WACANE

Washington Association of Collegiate Agriculture and Natural-Resource Educators

Location: All Community & Technical Colleges via Elluminate

Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2010

3:30pm-4:20pm

Meeting Attendees:

- Jaime Clarke , Director, Agriculture Center of Excellence
- LaKatherine Stanger, Support Staff, Agriculture Center of Excellence
- Trent Ball, Yakima Valley Community College (YVCC)
- Cindy Deffe, Spokane Community College (SCC)
- Debbie Frazier, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC)
- Kate McIlrath, Washington State University, Vancouver (WSU)
- Mike Swan, Washington State University (WSU)

Agriculture Center of Excellence Updates:

- *Staffing Updates*

Jaime Clarke provided information about the Agriculture Center of Excellence (Center) new support staff, LaKatherine Stanger. With the budget shortfalls this year the Center is only able to employ LaKatherine from September 20, 2010 through December 31, 2010, unless additional funding comes into place. LaKatherine Stanger may be contacted by phone: (509) 527-4635 or email: lakatherine.borgers@wwcc.edu.

- *Faculty Peer Groups*

Jaime presented a new Center initiative to divide faculty members into peer groups in order to encourage curricula sharing and discussions on best practices. Peer groups would be developed by connecting instructors in similar program areas, i.e., Agribusiness. Meeting attendees were polled as to whether or not faculty peer groups would be beneficial. The poll results were favorable, participants shared that it would benefit their programs to utilize the resources and ideas of the other individuals across the state. The groups will open new lines of communication on activities, students, and strategies.

- *Revising the Program Guide*

Jaime has renamed the 'Marketing Booklet' to 'Program Guide' for consistency with other Centers of Excellence across the state. The guide has been modified from a full page per college program to a condensed career path focused publication that lists the colleges and degrees offered in each program area. The newly organized structure of the guide was designed to direct students to a specific career path with the training opportunities listed at each college. The WACANE members all responded favorably toward the new design, Trent Ball stated that the new layout will be more useful to students.

- *Campus Visits*

Jaime shared that she will be conducting campus visits to all community and technical colleges offering agriculture and agriculture-related programs throughout the year. She is planning to visit Wenatchee Valley College in early October, several Seattle colleges in mid October, Spokane Community College in late October, and Yakima Valley College in November. During her visits Jaime would like to meet with faculty members in all agriculture and agriculture-related program areas, the Dean of Workforce Education, Vice President of Instruction, and the college President if possible.

- *Industry Meetings, Conferences & Trade Shows*

The Center has developed an extensive industry event calendar that covers July through June with numerous meetings, conferences and trade shows. The calendar is especially busy during the months of November and January. Jaime asked if the WACANE members were attending any industry related events to encourage sharing of resources, such as carpooling or sharing of materials on behalf of a college. Jaime encouraged the sharing of information in order to develop a calendar of industry events for WACANE members. Cindy Deffe supported the development of a collective calendar.

Post-Secondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS)

- Debbie Frazier provided an update on the National Post-Secondary Agricultural Student Organization (PAS). If colleges wish to participate in PAS, Fall Membership Rosters need to be submitted to the National PAS office by midnight EDT on November 1. The 2011 PAS National Conference will be held in Springfield, Illinois, at the Crowne Plaza, March 9 – 12. Debbie encouraged the participating WACNAE members to consider PAS for their students. An electronic handout providing membership and payment information was disseminated to WACANE members with the WACANE Meeting agenda. Colleges that wish to obtain more information about PAS are encouraged to contact Debbie directly, debbie.frazier@wwcc.edu.

Washington State University Updates

- Kate McIlrath shared that Washington State University (WSU) was in the process of integrating science degrees and modifying other degree options. Enrollment overall at WSU was down, but enrollment in the Agricultural and Natural Resource programs was up. WSU is appreciative of the transfer students from the two-year colleges and will continue to work with community and technical colleges to develop transfer agreements. The focus for transfer agreements will be on two-plus-two programs that ensure students are prepared to graduate after two years at WSU. Kate has relocated to the WSU Vancouver campus, her new phone number is (360) 546-9420.
- Mike Swan, announced that Dr. Marv Klein had retired on June 30th. Due to Dr. Klein's retirement Mike's teaching load has increased.

WACANE Member Roundtable

- Trent Ball, YVCC, shared that the college recently received a National Science Foundation grant and will be updating Viticulture and Enology curricula for online delivery. Student enrollment numbers are up in the Agricultural programs.
- Cindy Deffee, SCC, mentioned that first year student numbers are up and second year student numbers are down due to loss of Financial Aid assistance. She is trying to accommodate a large number of students in the Greenhouse Program, which currently has a waiting list. Changes within SCC have shifted faculty positions in Landscape and Greenhouse from tenure track to annualized contracts, Cindy will be working with administration at SCC to transfer these positions back to tenure track due to high student demand.
- Debbie Frazier, WWCC, stated that the Animal Science courses will only be offered once a year. The course enrollment numbers are up substantially in the Agriculture Science and Technology program, although there are still difficulties with students receiving their Financial Aid on time, if at all.

Next Meeting

- The next WACANE meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 3rd and will be hosted via Elluminate. Meeting participants voted to use Elluminate, with an ITV or an in-person meeting at least once a year.