

Washington Association of Collegiate Agriculture & Natural Resource Educators (WACANE)

Wednesday, December 8, 2010 from 1:30pm – 2:30pm via Elluminate

Meeting Attendees:

- Don Marshall, Lake Washington Technical College (LWTC)
- Erin Rudders, Spokane Community College (SCC)
- Greg Farrens, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC)
- Jaime Clarke, Director, Agriculture Center of Excellence
- Kerrin Molton, Columbia Basin College (CBC)
- LaKatherine Stanger, Office Assistant, Agriculture Center of Excellence
- Peter Punzi, South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC)
- Trent Ball, Yakima Valley Community College (YVCC)
- Valerie Fayette, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC)

Agriculture Center of Excellence Updates:

- *2010-2011 Work Plan & Budget*

Jaime Clarke provided an update on the Agriculture Center of Excellence work plan and budget status. The Center's July 1st – June 30th work plan was approved on December 1st. The delay in work plan approval was related to changes at the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Now that the work plan has been approved and the related funding will be allocated, the Center must work quickly to achieve March 2011 deliverables. One of the March deliverables is to host a conference for agriculture and natural resource faculty members. In order to best serve agriculture and natural resource faculty members an online survey was created and distributed, which enables WACANE members to identify dates, locations, workshop topics, and preferred instructional methods. WACANE participants were strongly urged to complete the online survey if they had not already done so.

- *Discussion Groups/Blog*

Faculty peer groups were established during September and initial contact was made to the peer groups in October. There has been a limited response and participation within the peer groups. Initial discussions were established on the Agriculture Center of Excellence blog. The blog does not appear to be the best place to facilitate an open conversation between faculty peers. As new project ideas emerge, Jaime has contacted individual faculty members who may or may not be interested in participating. During fall quarter, two potential projects were presented, 1) campus vegetable/herb gardens, and 2) development of an online integrated pest management course.

- *Campus Gardens*

Erin Rudders, Spokane Community College, is interested in learning more about campus vegetable gardens at other college campuses. If you have information to share about logistics, costs, and overall success of your campus garden, please contact Erin.

- *Integrated Pest Management Online Course Development*
Trent Ball, Yakima Valley Community College, is interested in developing an online integrated pest management (IPM) course that would potentially transfer to Washington State University. An online discussion was held on December 3rd with limited participation. If you are interested in joining the conversation, please contact Trent.

- *Campus Visits*
Campus visits were an initiative established during the 2009-2010 school year. Jaime will be conducting campus visits again this school year, having already performed ten visits between September and December. During campus visits Jaime wishes to meet with the Vice President of Instruction, Workforce Education Director, and faculty members. Campus visits are an opportunity to share concerns, request additional assistance, and highlight your college's successes. Jaime will be contacting faculty members to schedule campus visits for February and March.

- *Industry Meetings, Conferences, & Trade Shows*
Jaime has been on the road during fall quarter attending events across the state representing community and technical college programs at industry meetings, conferences, and trade shows. Between the months of October and December she attended seven events, 1) Washington Green Industries & Career Expo (Seattle), 2) Land and Water Summit (Snohomish County), 3) Focus on Farming (Snohomish County), 4) Washington Cattlemen's Association Convention (Cle Elum), 5) Washington Farm Bureau Annual Meeting (Yakima), 6) Washington Association of Grain Growers Conference (Spokane), and 7) Far West Agribusiness Conference (Pasco) later this month.

- *Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training*
The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges has encouraged Centers of Excellence to become more involved with industry related Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (IBEST) programs. Within the field of agriculture and natural resources there are four approved IBEST programs, 1) Community Forestry at Green River Community College (GRCC), 2) Industrial Laboratories at Lake Washington Technical College (LWTC), 3) Horticulture at South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC), and 4) Watershed Ecology at Walla Walla Community College (WWCC). Due to limited funding only two of the four IBEST programs are currently being offered, LWTC & WWCC. If you are interested in applying for an IBEST in agriculture or natural resources, please notify Jaime. The Center of Excellence is able to assist colleges with career pathway information, illustrating start and stop points with job growth and wage comparisons.

College and University Updates:

- There were no attendees from four year colleges or universities.

WACANE Member Roundtable:

- Peter Punzi, South Puget Sound Community College (SPSCC), shared that he has been conducting plant identification and mapping on his campus. Mapping has been done through an online tool, www.plantmapper.com, which allows images of the campus to be uploaded and specifically identifies the location of plants. This system allows him to place coordinates of each plant into a GPS system and then upload it to a



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Google map. Peter is working to make the information more accessible. A mapped campus will assist participants taking the Certified Landscape Technician (CLT) test at SPSCC. Peter also shared that he is actively working on a collaborative degree with Walla Walla Community College in Turf Management and waiting to hear back from Washington State University on articulation agreements.

- Trent Ball, Yakima Valley Community College (YVCC), described efforts to establish an online integrated pest management (IPM) course that would consist of orchard and viticulture strategies. Development of the course is consistent with a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant that was recently awarded to YVCC. The grant will assist in re-shaping the curricula to fit the growing season in order to encourage students to gain more hands-on experience through employment. Trent is also working closely with Wenatchee Valley College on their joint Tree Fruit and Viticulture Programs.
- Valerie Fayette, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC), discussed enrollments and hiring a new instructor for the program. The WWCC Enology and Viticulture Program is working closely with the Washington State Wine Grape Association to ensure that the program is meeting industry needs. Jaime asked Valarie and Trent about the existence of Enology and Viticulture Skill Standards, neither instructor was aware of existing standards; however, they are both well connected with the industry.
- Don Marshall, Lake Washington Technical College (LWTC), shared that the college had recently installed a new 3500 gallon rain catchment system on the greenhouse. He is planning to use this system to water the greenhouse and adjacent gardens. Jaime mentioned that Edmonds Community College (ECC) had a similar rain catchment system and encouraged Don to contact the faculty at ECC. Peter also shared that a rain catchment system is in place at SPSCC as well.
- Kerrin Molten, Columbia Basin College (CBC), attended the National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE) conference and obtained a lot of useful information for her program. Kerrin provided the NAAE website for the agri-science institute, www.naae.org/prodev/nataa.html. She is currently researching the possibilities of integrated new lab activities into her classrooms, similar to what she observed during the NAAE conference. CBC is also waiting to hear back from Washington State University on articulation agreements.
- Greg Farrens, Walla Walla Community College (WWCC), spoke to the group about his online courses and using new technology, such as Tegrity. Tegrity is a video capture program that allows instructors to film their entire lecture or section of it and post it to the online course. He shared that the access and need for the students was much easier and more cost effective. The training for Tegrity consists of about 15 minutes with IT personnel from the college campus walking an instructor through the ins and outs of the equipment. Greg also shared that the National Irrigation Association Conference is going to be held at WWCC June 22-24, which will provide the college and programs a lot of valuable exposure.
- Jaime shared that eLearning tools like Tegrity are previewed during the first and third Thursdays of the month, visit the eLearning site to find out more about upcoming webinars; www.tinyurl.com/noreensroom.
- Jaime thanked the faculty members for participating. She reminded the faculty members to please take the online survey which will determine the next WACANE Meeting, the 2011 WACANE Conference.