

Forestry and Environmental Science Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday June 6th, 2022

3:30pm-4:30pm

Lake Tahoe Community College

Zoom

Attendees: Brad Deeds (Dean of Workforce Development and Instruction/LTCC), Sara Hunter (AA to the Dean/LTCC), Frank Gerdeman (Director of ADVANCE/LTCC), Amber Goligoski (Program Coordinator of Work-Based Learning/LTCC), Carlie Murphy (Forestry Grant Manager/LTCC), Devin Middlebrook (Sustainability Program Coordinator/TRPA), Diane Dealey Neill (Executive Director/Forestry Educators Incorporated), Gary Whitehouse (District Director/CA Conservation Corps, Tahoe Center), Josh Sweigert (Associate Director of Employer Partnership/North-Far North Regional Consortium, California Community Colleges), Nancy Dalton (Board Member/LTCC), Taylor Parker (Forestry Program Director/Sierra Nevada Alliance), Victor Lyon (Resource Officer/US Forest Service), Kim Carr (Forestry Program Project Consultant/LTCC), and Scott Valentine (Earth Science Faculty/LTCC).

Overview of Programs:

Forestry

-The Forestry Program will officially launch Fall 2022. It will offer stackable Certificates and an Associate of Science Degree.

-There are four new courses:

FOR 110: Introduction to Forestry and FOR 110L: Introduction to Forestry Lab will both be offered Fall 2022.

FOR 111: Forest Resources and Society will be offered Winter 2023.

FOR 112: Current Issues in Forestry and Natural Resources will be offered Spring 2023.

-Some part-time instructors have been hired by LTCC, but there are still opportunities and openings, especially as the program expands.

-We are currently exploring articulation agreements with multiple schools, such as Cal Poly Humboldt, UC Berkeley, University of Idaho, and University of Nevada, Reno.

-Internship agreements are also in the works.

-Upcoming grants to fund marketing have created a lot of excitement. The focus will be ways to reach locals, especially diverse populations, and people looking to grow or change their career.

-LTCC has worked closely with partners such as CAL FIRE, CA Tahoe Conservancy, USDA Forest Service, and others during the entire launch preparation period to ensure clear pathways and strong working relationships. The overall goal is to attract and retain people into the Forestry profession.

Environmental Science:

-The Environmental Science Program was recently revised to better align with current industry demands, transfer opportunities, the new Forestry program, and overall student success.

-There are two sides to the program- Environmental Studies, and Environmental Sciences.

Partnership Feedback/General Discussion:

-Housing in South Lake Tahoe continues to be an ongoing barrier. LTCC currently has an off-campus housing facility with 31 beds and is hopeful to receive funding to build a larger 100-bed on-campus housing dormitory targeted at low-income, full-time students.

-LTCC is also working on raising funds to build the Tahoe Basin Public Safety Training Center. This would serve as a home base for multiple Career & Technical Education programs (FIR, FOR, WLD SAR, CRJ, EMT, etc.) to train and study in, and well as store gear and equipment.

-There are 2 new courses at the High School that promote "learning by exploring". These courses are science/recreational and promote outdoor adventure, safety, and exposure to the wilderness and possible related careers.

-There are summer jobs available to South Tahoe HS students through Generation Green and the Park Ranger Program. These provide opportunities for a summer salary, work experience, and even college credit.

The desire to focus on not only incoming students from High School, but also local adults who are looking for new skills and/or careers was expressed.

-Community members agree that they would like to see more local, permanent jobs with benefits in this field become more common.

-To support students in this field, it will be important to be flexible and thoughtful when scheduling classes.

-Perkins funding was discussed.

Adjournment