

**WMCC COLLEGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 3, 2022**

Present: Pamela Laflamme (Chair), David Backler, Heidi Barker, Kevin Carpenter, Cathy Conway, Julie King, Mike Laracy, Chuck Lloyd, Al Smith

Absent: Janice Crawford, Ben Gaetjens-Oleson, Carrie Gendreau, Paul Pinkham

Guests: Tim Allison, Colbie Ayotte, Steve Fader, Kristen Miller, Melanie Robbins, Gretchen Taillon

The White Mountains Community College Advisory Committee convened on February 3, 2022, at 12:00 PM virtually via Zoom.

-Introductions

Ms. Laflamme welcomed the group to the meeting and asked members for their updates.

-Regional/Individual Updates

Ms. King told the group that she continues to look for more ways to increase partnership opportunities with the college. There continues to be ongoing consultation regarding the pandemic between the SAUs and the college.

Ms. Barker is preparing for a state-wide initiative, foundational training, pathways to food access, and a resiliency collaboration. She briefly discussed the *Walk With Ease Program* and the *Master Wellness Volunteer Training*, for which she provided a link (<https://extension.unh.edu/event/2022/03/master-wellness-volunteer-training>).

Mr. Smith discussed how things were slowly starting to return to normal, in terms of providing education. He is looking at having students visit the technical center, which he has not been able to do in the past two years. He said he is excited about what is going on with WMCC in Littleton. He recently had a meeting with Congresswoman Annie Kuster's office and is looking forward to future work together.

Ms. Conway has had a busy year and subsequent ARPA funding has provided opportunities. Her focus is still on municipal work, and she is always looking for more surveyors and interns. She just started working with a student intern from White Mountains Regional High School.

Mr. Carpenter is continuing to try and build partnerships that will offer college credits to students at reduced rates and to create additional pathways. In regard to navigating the pandemic, there have been some staffing issues, but he is working around it.

Ms. Laflamme discussed the challenge of finding people to fill positions. There has been a lot of turn over, particularly in CDL positions. The greenhouse project is making headway; finding people to maintain it is a concern. They are working on creating incentives to attract people to the area for employment and to keep them here. Coos County Family Health Services is looking for community health workers and will provide training. She said Ken Gordon, CEO, has shared information on this with someone at the college.

-College Advisory Committee Bylaws

Ms. Laflamme spoke to the importance of formalizing bylaws. The bylaws mirror the process for the CCSNH trustees, and include information regarding terms, frequency of meetings, roles, and responsibilities. Ms. Laflamme asked the committee to review the document sent out prior to the meeting and to provide suggestions and feedback. This document needs to be approved at a meeting where there is an in-person quorum present.

-Academic Affairs

Dr. Miller discussed the electric vehicle certificate program proposal that will be going to curriculum committee next week. Classes are expected to start this fall. She also said the industrial mechanic certificate will likely be

transitioning to be more of an industrial equipment technician certificate. She said the college continues to see an increase in Early College and Running Start students, and we are exploring how to get these students more engaged with the college.

-Academic Centers

Ms. Robbins gave a few updates regarding the academic centers. The college is trying to build enrollment in North Conway. A wilderness therapy course will be running there this summer. North Conway is fully staffed again with the addition of full-time employee Christopher Lalmond. The LPN program that's being offered in Littleton and run through River Valley Community College has eight students. Some of the construction in Littleton has been put on hold because the college is waiting for the fire marshal's approval. Deconstruction of one of the buildings is set to begin in March. Plans are in place to develop a student center in Littleton. In March, there will be a non-credit Commercial Driver Training program offered in Littleton. This is a shortened course in March and April that is not financial aid eligible. Impact Academy through Granite State Independent Living is being held in Littleton this semester. The Meals IncludED program has been successful at both academic centers, offering free meals to students throughout the last year.

-Student Affairs & Finance

Dr. Lloyd spoke to how the college has had several position openings and organizational shifts. Nicole Bourque has been promoted as the Director of Onboarding and Student Success. Becky Hebert-Sweeny will be serving as a part-time Accessibility Services Coordinator, on an interim basis, starting Monday. The college had a very successful open house in the fall and has another one scheduled for April 1. FAFSA workshops are being planned to help increase access for students. The advanced technology building in Littleton will have a groundbreaking ceremony in early April. Construction will be in one phase instead of portioning it out like originally planned.

Dr. Lloyd said the college is in a very good place financially. The college has been watching its expenditures and looking at ways to invest back into itself. There have been some workforce development and credit bearing programs that have merged, and there has been a major focus on turning stackable credentials into degrees.

-System-Wide Updates

Mr. Allison told the group that Paul and Anna Grace Holloway contributed one million dollars to the Foundation. Mr. Allison is excited to work with Dr. Lloyd to use that money in a way to inspire other people to give. He provided a link for more information regarding the Holloway donation (<https://givenhcc.org/holloway-family-donates-1m-to-foundation-for-nh-community-colleges/>).

The *Gift to the Class of 2021* was used by 90 students that attended WMCC. This gift was one free course at a community college for last year's graduating NH high school students. The trend across the system was that students who used the class gift also decided to continue their education and enrolled in classes for the next semester as well.

-Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Colbie Ayotte
Human Resources/President's Office