

Present: Lauren Carney, Matt Cavalli, Mary Gustas, Tricia Edgell, Katie Harmon, Jennifer Smith, Eric Stewart

Absent: Russell Lauderdale, Dan Pontius, Juan Ortiz, Carla Sones

KVCC: Rachel Bair, Craig Jbara, Thomas Sutton

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1. Acceptance of Agenda

- The agenda was accepted as written

2. Craig Jbara presented key objectives of the CACT Advisory Board that include:

- Provide training needs and trends that we can explore and confirm
- Connect us to industry partners that align with our programs and services

3. Grant Updates

Craig Jbara presented for Kate Miller

- MiLEAP
  - i. This program has served over 190 community members with wrap around services and short-term training
  - ii. Currently delivering some programs at the Northside Association as well as the Groves campus
    - High demand for the Patient Care Academy has resulted in four academies running concurrently
    - MiLEAP is also providing tuition funding for programs such as Medical Billing, Phlebotomy, and IT Help Desk
    - A Sterile Processing class is scheduled for fall of 2023
- SNAP Ed
  - i. The Learning Kitchen program has served over 140 families
    - In collaboration with the Food Innovations Center, this program was able to provide food for all the participating families this year
    - A reunion program is being planned for August 2023
    - Glenn Noffsinger has resigned as the PSE lead; therefore, Lizzie Luchsinger will assume this role for the remainder of the grant period, which will end on September 30, 2023
    - Feedback for this program has been resoundingly positive resulting in our push to continue virtual learning while adding some in-person components for next year

Rachel Bair

- The Sustainable Horticulture Program, which was funded by a grant from the USDA, continues to evolve
  - i. Sarah Tanis was hired as part of the grant but has since moved to a full-time position with KVCC as the Director of Sustainable Horticulture



- ii. Additionally, Beth Keith has been hired as a program coordinator for the Sustainable Horticulture program
  - iii. In the next round of funding, the FIC will be seeking to build a strong internship program
  - The local food promotion grant is funding the ValleyHub to focus on outreach to local food service providers and other institutions in order to create a market outlet for local farmers
    - i. The last quarter of the 2023 fiscal year saw a 53% increase in sales, which is the largest amount of sales of any quarter in the history of the Valley Hub
  - As part of a state-wide grant designed as a local food purchase assistance program, the FIC was awarded 3.2 million dollars for funding
    - i. One million was earmarked to purchase food from local farmers which will be given away through organizations such as Loaves and Fishes as well as Sprout as well as providing food for the SnapEd programs
    - ii. Another part of this work, funded by the grant, is to support farms and their food safety practices to be able to provide food to schools, hospitals, etc.
      - The Food Safety guidelines have shifted since the COVID19 pandemic resulting in new legislation and new leadership
      - In collaboration with the FIC, Fresh Systems LLC organized a meeting with the FDA, USDA and Michigan Department of Agriculture plus a number of other partners who work on food farm safety
        - a. There was a discussion of current and future projects as well as gaps in safety procedures
        - b. They visited a farm and went through how the different agencies would inspect that farm for food safety
        - c. This meeting resulted in an increased interest to continue these meetings and, potentially, develop a robust food safety training program
4. Department Updates
- Craig Jbara presented for Kate Miller
    - i. Health Careers Programming
      - The Health Career Academies continue to collaborate with the MiLEAP team, which has led to an increase in Patient Care Academies and the hire of Rachel Anderton as a full-time instructor
      - CNA licenses are active for the KRESA EFE program, Groves Adult Program and the location at NACD



- Approval was received from the State of Michigan to be a certified testing sight for the Patient Care Academy which will be a significant barrier removal for KVCC students
  - The Groves Campus is currently supporting the EMS Instructor/Coordinator class, which will wrap up in September 2023
- ii. Community Culinary and Nutrition
- On August 12, 2023 the college will host The National Medical Culinary Summit in conjunction with the American Culinary Federation at the Marilyn J. Schlack Culinary and Allied Health Building
    - a. This is the first time this summit has been hosted outside of Harvard University
  - There will be open enrollment culinary classes offered in the fall
  - Recently welcomed two new fulltime hires
    - a. Tracy Williams: Community Culinary & Nutrition Program Support Specialist
    - b. Noel Corwin: Career & Continuing Education Program Coordinator
  - In September 2023, the Grove's campus will run the second cohort of the CHEF coaching class in conjunction with Spaulding and Harvard University
- iii. Cannabis Online Program
- Partnered with a professor from the Community College State University to offer our first instructor-led virtual cannabis class
    - a. This 6-week program will prepare participants to take the American Culinary Federation's (ACF) Specialization Certificate in Culinary Cannabis and Edibles certification exam for only \$225
- iv. Life Enrichment
- Groves campus hosted the All things Possible program for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Animation for Adults will be running at the CNM with Aubrey Rodgers as the instructor
- v. Corporate Training
- Demand for customized workforce training continues to be high with training currently scheduled with Dimplex Thermal Solutions, Zoetis, American Axle & Manufacturing, Refresco, and Shiloh



- Recently received a \$500,000 allocation from the Michigan New Jobs Training Program and are seeking growing Michigan companies to help leverage the training grant
  - a. One contract has been secured but there is still \$380,000 still available in the current round of funding
  - b. This grant will divert set tax dollars to support training for companies that are growing and expanding
- Partnering with Goodwill Industries to create a year-long training program
- Maddie Isch moved from Program Coordinator to Associate Director of Corporate Training
- vi. Discussion of the Cosmetology and Barbering Institute that KVCC will be launching in the future
  - Confirmed that this program will be under the oversight of credit programming
- Tom Sutton
  - i. WTTA28 started on July 6<sup>th</sup>
    - The newest instructor, Forrest Maxwell, will be leading this academy
    - Long-term instructor, Tony Parcher, left the college to go back in to the industry due to KVCC pay restrictions. We are unable to compete with industry salaries
  - ii. Currently there are two students scheduled to attend WTTA29 in January 2024, with four potential students pending
  - iii. The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe wind turbine repair project is scheduled to be completed this year
    - The electrical control system had to be removed and rebuilt by the WTTA students over a period of a year and a half as a class project
    - The wind turbine was put into production for roughly ten minutes for testing, which helped identify the remaining items to be analyzed and resolved
  - iv. Currently working with Nordex USA, a major wind turbine manufacturer to schedule training for different global offices
    - We have been asked to provide training in Spain for 10-20 wind technicians. We are working on the details and timing now and anticipate offering September 2023 dates
    - The USA office is struggling to find wind technicians, the wind industry estimates 77,000 new technicians will be needed each of the next five years in this country to meet what is currently on the books for the wind industry
      - Due to this need, Nordex USA is interested in a collaboration to pay a scholarship to put students through



- the Wind Turbine Technician Academy in return for one year of employment.
    - Requires board approval, but can be implemented in January, if approved
  - v. Technical Training Services provided instruction for the Explore Your Future summer camp, covering wind energy and machine exploration
  - vi. Currently hosting two interns from Y.O.U, one of whom is working on video content creation and the other is working on lab projects
  - vii. Currently in discussion regarding money awarded from the State of Michigan earmarked to be used in the Wind Turbine Technician Program regarding electrical vehicle components and commercial solar
- Rachel Bair
  - i. KVCC ValleyHub
    - Since January, thirteen new school districts have contracted with the ValleyHub for locally sourced food
    - The ValleyHub team met with the regional directors of Chartwells, who are the food service provider for more than half of Michigan school districts
    - ValleyHub is projected to have 60 school districts on contract for fall 2023
    - Michigan Department of Education has requested to do a photoshoot at ValleyHub as the face of the local food movement
    - Additionally, Stateside Michigan Radio did a piece on the FIC in June 2023
  - ii. Food Innovations Center (FIC) Site Projects
    - Ben Balsma rebuilt the aquaponics system to transition the system from tilapia to koi
      - The system is now more productive and easier to harvest the produce
      - Koi fish, used as ornamentation in ponds, are more highly sought after than tilapia
      - There is a contest to name the fish
    - Currently working on seven interpretive signs to be placed around the FIC
      - Two are welcome signs and the remainder are educational signs
      - Projected to be installed by late August
  - iii. Programming
    - The Opportunities for Education Dinner, which supports student scholarships, will be hosted at the FIC on September 28, 2023
    - The FIC has been hosting several summer camps such as Explore Your Future, All Things Possible and Urban Farm Explorers



- Fall 2023 open enrollment programming has been publicized in the in KV Focus with a few more classes to be added
- Craig Jbara presented for Vic Ledbetter
  - i. A new police academy is scheduled to begin August 20, 2023
  - ii. The last police academy graduated in May 2023
  - iii. The graduation rates for the police academy has been upwards of 98%, as well as the job placement rate
- 5. Eric Stewart from KRESA notified the group that they are looking to hire five Pathway Leads for the Career Center, which is slated to open in 2025
- 6. Jennifer Smith from Consumers Credit Union asked if there was any partnership opportunities between KVCC Groves and Career Launch Kalamazoo, which is a youth apprenticeship program
  - That would be a partnership for credit-based programming at KVCC
- 7. Craig gave a general request to the group for any ideas or collaboration requests
- 8. Meeting adjourned

**Next Meeting: October 6, 2023**

Kalamazoo Valley Groves Campus (*In-Person / Zoom Hybrid*)  
7107 Elm Valley Drive | Kalamazoo MI 49009

