

Present: Matt Cavalli, Mary Gustas, Tricia Edgell, Katie Harmon, Jennifer Smith, Russell Lauderdale, Dan Pontius, Juan Ortiz, Carla Sones

Absent: Lauren Carney, Carla Sones, Eric Stewart

KVCC: Rachel Bair, Kate Miller, Craig Jbara, Tracy Labadie, Thomas Sutton

1. Acceptance of Agenda

- The agenda was accepted as written

2. Discussion of term limits

- Russell's last meeting will be in January. His ongoing support and contributions have been very much appreciated.
- We still have 2-3 open Advisory Board seats. Please identify other individuals or organizations that have the interest and would be a good fit for participation on the Board.

3. Grant Updates

Kate Miller

- MiLEAP
 - i. This program has exceeded its performance goals and will officially end in June 2024
 - ii. Twenty-one different programs were supported by MiLEAP such as the Phlebotomy Technician Academy, Patient Care Academy, and Sterile Processing Academy
 - iii. Dozens of positive testimonials have been received stating how this program has impacted the lives of our MiLEAP funded students
- Workforce Grants
 - i. The GoingPro Talent Fund Competitive Training grant is ongoing
 - For the most part, this grant focuses on technical training programs but has recently allowed some soft skills training to be eligible for funding at \$1,500 per person
 - ii. The Michigan New Jobs Training Program has a lot of funding available to businesses that are adding new jobs
 - FlavorSum has entered in to an active MNJTP agreement
 - Profielnorm has submitted an intent to agree for MNJTP for their new site in Plainwell
- SNAP Ed
 - i. The Learning Kitchen program served 132 families last funding period, with 180 families set as the goal for this funding period
 - Lizzie Luchsinger has been invited to present and defend a poster on this program at the American Conference for Lifestyle Medicine



Rachel Bair

- The Agricultural Food Research Initiative funded the Sustainable Horticulture Program with six classes running during the current semester; all with nearly full rosters
- The USDA Local Food Promotion grant is in its sixth year of funding for the Food Innovations Center
 - i. Looking to hire a new staff member to fill the role of Food Systems Educator to implement food safety training for farms and other general areas with a focus on the needs of ValleyHub partner suppliers
- USDA Local Food Purchase program has 3.2 million in funding to provide food to our community by purchasing it from local farms
 - i. Currently the FIC has made \$100,000 in food purchases and distributions in the community through organizations such as Sprout and the Valley Food Share program
 - ii. Looking to expand distribution as far as Benton Harbor

4. Department Updates

- Kate Miller
 - i. Corporate Training
 - Recently hired a new Associate Director, Madeline Isch, and program coordinator, Adam Westhouse.
 - This department recently met with decision makers at Zoetis and within two months were able to start training about 50 of their employees in customized competency based training
 - a. This was done in collaboration with Tom Sutton's Technical Training Services team
 - ii. Health Careers Programming
 - Currently there are two Patient Care Academies running along with a Phlebotomy Academy and the Sterile Processing program
 - Learning new ways to overcome obstacles as we offer more of these programs
 - a. Katelyn Vinson, Kate Miller, Craig Jbara, and Brittany Glanton have been providing more in-class support
 - b. Qualifying is strict in regards to drug testing, attendance, etc.



iii. Community Culinary and Nutrition

- Due to the increase of people within this department, they were able to offer a robust selection of community programming
 - a. Seasonal produce classes are being offered at a low-cost price
 - b. Holiday classes are also being offered
 - c. Using a bilingual feature which is a first for these programs
 - d. In collaboration with an instructor from SUNY Community College of New York, there will be a cannabis class starting in January 2024
 - i. This class is specifically designed to prepare students for the American Culinary Federation's (ACF) Specialization Certificate in Culinary Cannabis and Edibles exam

iv. Life Enrichment

- Looking to increase the amount of life enrichment community programs
 - a. A tattoo safety class is being offered at no cost for the community
 - b. Looking to support seniors within our community who are struggling with unfamiliar technology such as Smartphone Photography and iPad Basics classes
 - c. We are also considering theater classes, basic finance, etc.

v. Field trips have been introduced to the Groves staff

- Request placed to the group for anyone willing to host us for an hour or more

- Tom Sutton

- i. WTTA28

- The students are currently in the field for three weeks of onsite training
 - Recently, the WTTA team commissioned The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe wind turbine after twelve years of it being non-operational
 - This has been a great project for the last three classes to participate in
 - Received high praise from the tribe and elder council members, who are interested in entering in to a maintenance agreement
 - The students just finished midterms in which each student passed all four of their timed exams with every question answered



- Next Era, who is the largest energy providing company, did an onsite presentation to the students for employment opportunities within their company
 - ii. In the process of overhauling lab space to make things more efficient and to discard worn/outdated equipment
 - iii. Currently providing leadership to another ANSI standards process at a national level. We are developing, with partner companies, a standard for utility solar and BESS technicians. It should go to public comment later this month. This will be the 5th ANSI standard we have helped develop and publish.
 - iv. Our Corporate Training instructors are busy delivering many classes in electrical, fluid power, robotics, and mechanical systems.
 - v. Recently completed a project for KVCC's award-winning brewing program where the TTS team designed and manufactured custom brew tap handles for their beer to be used in the establishments that will offer it to the public.
 - This project shared the experience with various corporate classes in the use of lasers to engrave and cut wood as well as 5-axis machining skills to produce the handles. These types of internal projects provide valuable application to the learning within our training programs.
 - vi. The instructional team provided forklift training to the Horticulture degree seeking students from the FIC.
 - Various pieces of equipment are required for training within the program and we will probably assist with future equipment training.
 - vii. The TTS team completed three ISO 9001 audits this past year with no findings and no comments on the reports.
 - The team is getting very used to these audits and this year was a perfect alignment of all programs requiring the audits to hit within a three-month window. Our four-year certificate renewal occurs in early March 2024.
- Rachel Bair
 - i. The FIC recently hosted the annual Opportunity for Education dinner for the Kalamazoo Valley Foundation
 - ii. The planning for the April 2024 Kalamazoo Foodways Symposium is underway
 - There will be a deeper collaboration with the culinary department
 - The theme is African heritage
 - iii. Foodshare Program



- There has been a record number of requests this year with the packaging team providing 150-170 boxes a week, which is 100/week more from last year
 - Request made for volunteers; Thursday mornings at the FIC
 - iv. Farmers Market
 - This summer there was a FIC presence at the Kalamazoo Farmers Market
 - There was a different department featured each month
 - Animation, applied art and media, horticulture program, community culinary paired with the ValleyHub, etc.
 - Received a lot of questions regarding how to register for classes
 - 540 meaningful interactions were recorded
 - v. Community Programming
 - Fall classes are currently underway
 - Discovered success with some classes while others had to rescheduled or canceled
 - Currently planning for the winter 2024 schedule
5. Juan Ortiz requested collaboration on a project to provide blind students from his organization with overviews of of different career fields
- There is funding available for this potential collaboration
6. Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: January 12, 2024

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

