Glendale Community College & Estrella Mountain Community College

Joint Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Programs Cisco Networking, CompTIA A+ and Networking +, Cybersecurity

February 23rd, 202 8:00am – 12:00pm.

This was a co-hosted event with Glendale Community College and Estrella Mountain Community College. In attendance were Maricopa District representatives and members from other Maricopa community colleges.

Participants included Maricopa faculty, district representatives, training partners, industry partners and students.

Maricopa Community College attendees			
Andrea Schauer, GCC	Glen Olson, EMCC	Diane Meza, MCCCD	Julie STiak, MCCCD
Daniel Barajas, MCCCD	Becky Baranowski, EMCCC	Rachelle Hall, GCC	Laura Porritt, EMCC
Paula Livingston, EMCC	Dr. Roy Rivera, EMCC	Ron Monroig, SCC	Larisa Greenband, DSSC
Juanita Darby, SMCC	Norman Wang, EMCC	Grace Kirker, EMCC	Diane Meza, MITI
Denise Kruckenberg, MCCCD			

Advisory Council Guests & Industry Partners			
Bryan Darby, VP QTS Data Centers, iMASONS	Bob Reitinger, Microsoft Data Centers	Patricia Leyva, Equinix	Bill Hornaday, Weitz
Wyniette Sandling, Exyte	Clark Bauer, JLL	Andreas Zoll, Microsoft	Marc Rivera, Microsoft

Kendall Ellison, Edge Core	Naim Jones, Microsoft	Isa Hernandez, Microsoft	Gary McCray, Gray Construction
Adiel Becerril, Cyrus One	Russ, Oakley, Distech	Brett Helm, Skanska	Tom Maples, DPR Construction
Matthew Fabros, Ardebili Engineering	David Lathie, Gary Construction	Scott Samuels, WWPS Construction	Lynette Sandling, Exyte
Harrison Stoll, iMASONS	Jeff Lawrence, Compu Dynamics		

Students			
Guillermo Fernandez, EMCC	Arianit Kajtazi, GCC	Michael Gideon, EMCC	Ashley Taylor
Angel Hernandez			

This advisory council was formatted with a panel discussion and open audience questions and participation.

Introductions
A. Welcome Message and Introductions by Paula Livingston
B. Panelist Speakers:
1. Bryan Darby (VP QTS Data Centers)
2. Andrea Schauer (Faculty GCC)
3. Naim Jones (Microsoft Data Centers)
4. Issa Hernandez (Microsoft Data Centers)
5. Glen Olsen (EMCC Faculty)
C. Moderator: Becky Baranowski

II. Microsoft Data Center Initiatives
A. Progress Update on Microsoft Data Center Launch
B. Overview of Microsoft Data Center Scholarship Progress
C. Student Perspectives on Scholarship Benefits from Naim Jones & Issa Hernandez
D. Creation of Microsoft Data Center technician CCL by Rachelle Hall at GCC
E. Request industry partners consider creating more scholarship opportunities that emulate the Microsoft Data Center Scholarship

III. Curriculum and Industry Engagement

A. Importance of Industry-Driven Curriculum and Exams

B. Exams update every 3 years as does curriculum

C. Need for Industry Partners to Teach Classes

D. Creation of CCL for Data Center Environment Skills by EMCC and MCC

E. Requirement for Qualified Instructors

F. Summary - Curriculum is mostly based on industry driven curriculum and exams. This material is vetted by and provided by vendors and manufacturers. Red Hat Linux, Cisco CCNA, CompTIA A+, Networking +, Security +.

IV. Labor Market Trends

A. Data Center Construction and Job Market Growth in Arizona

(a)   AZ is ranked 6th for data center construction, https://www.evoquedcs.com/blog/phoenix-data-center-boom

(b)   This drives an increase in several job markets

(c)   Arizona's tech wage 115% higher than median state wage

(d)   The tech sector has a $33.4 billion economic impact on the state of Arizona. CompTIA lists Phoenix as one of the sometimes "under the radar" tech cities.

B. Economic Impact of the Tech Sector in Arizona

C. Concerns over Emotional Quotient (EQ) of Job Seekers

D. Introduction of Non-credit Professional Workforce Class and Badging

E. Job Interviewing Workshop Collaboration

V. Emotional Quotient (EQ)

A. Concerns Over Lack of EQ Among Job Seekers

1. Growing concern within the industry

2. Observation of low EQ among college graduates and other applicants

B. Skills in Decline

1. Basic interview skills

2. Presentation skills

3. Math skills

4. Email writing skills

5. Conversational skills

6. Troubleshooting and problem-solving abilities

C. Impact on Hiring

1. Applicants with these skills have higher likelihood of being hired

2. Greater mobility and increased salary

D. Initiatives to Address EQ Gap

1. Mentorship & interview skills workshops

2. Introduction of Non-credit Professional Workforce Class by Diane Meza

a. Update on badging system

3. Introduction of IT for Technicians Class by Diane Meza & Andrea Schauer

a. Designed for technicians in various fields

4. Collaboration on Job Interviewing Workshop

a. Bryan Darby, Andrea Schauer and Rachelle Hall leading efforts

b. Engagement with Izelle Silva in GCC Career Services for support

VI. Open Discussion

A. Concerns about Elimination of CIS105

1. Ongoing discussion regarding elimination of CIS105

2. Industry Feedback

a. Industry partners highlight insufficient basic IT skills among applicants

b. Lack of proficiency in Excel, Word, PowerPoint, and basic IT etiquette

c. Concerns raised about impact on hiring practices

C. Legislative Engagement

a. Some industry partners willing to leverage legislative connections

B. Integration of Sustainability Curriculum into IT Fields

C. Initiatives for Enrollment Promotion and Outreach

D. Plans for Annual Advisory Council Meetings and BUILT Format

E. Promotion of West Valley GGIT and New Speaker Series

F. Formalization of Mentorship Program with IMasons

Topics covered:

● Courses offerings and the ability to meet the needs of a broad range of industries in the IT field and related to IT industries.

● Discussion of the Microsoft Data Center Scholarship and the opportunities it has opened up.

● Request from industry partners to consider creating similar scholarships.

● Robust group discussion regarding Emotional Quotient of students

● Internship creation and working backwards

● Continued partnership with industry for creating a more formalized mentorship program

● Industry partners sponsoring instructors or providing instructors.

● Announcement of speaker circuit

- Promote west valley GGIT

Collaboration across the colleges creates greater cooperation between colleges, business, educators and industry to align business workforce needs and educational outcomes. Working cooperatively will strengthen and improve the programs we offer and the student experience.

Reflection: During the meeting, industry partners collectively acknowledged a pressing concern: the insufficient availability of qualified personnel in Arizona to meet the demands of the burgeoning tech market. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, these partners committed to contributing to a multifaceted solution. Strategies discussed included the recruitment of high school students, fostering motivation within colleges, providing instructional support, assisting with curriculum development, and actively participating in internship and mentorship programs. Furthermore, there was a shared aspiration to enhance diversity within the employment pool, encompassing various backgrounds, genders, and cultures. It was emphasized that the issue extends beyond gender disparity to encompass a lack of cultural diversity and representation of people of color. It was mutually understood that addressing this challenge requires sustained collaboration between educational institutions and industry stakeholders, as well as a concerted effort to overcome the numerous obstacles involved.

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order 9:00am
Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm