Spring 2019 Program Advisory Committee Minutes

Program: Biotech   **Date: 4/2/19**

Members Present:

Laura Rubin	Phil Damiani
Jeff Jacques	Jacob Alden
Gene Wong	Arlyssa LaPorte
Brianne Hantzis	Deb O'Reilly
Alana Arangio	Louise Kao
Kalomira Kalazatis	

Program Facilitator: Arlyssa LaPorte
Committee Chair: Jeff Jacques

Subject: Portfolio Review Volunteers

Discussion: Deb explained the portfolio review process to the members and passed around a sample of a senior showcase portfolio. This year our seniors will present a Biotech CTE project in the same format as a research poster presentation. Our Senior portfolios this year will be held the morning of May 7. Arlyssa explained that the school needs industry volunteers to observe the presentations, give helpful feedback and help score the students portfolios. Laura, Alana, Phil, Jeff, Jacob, all mentioned that they may be able to volunteer & more communication would follow by email.

Subject: Student Enrollment & Placement

Discussion: Our class size has gone up slightly from last year. Our CTE numbers stand as 13 Seniors, 13 juniors, 18 sophomores, and 17. The biotech CTE has tended to attract more female students than male, both senior and Junior classes are 77% girls, 23% boys. Sophomore class is 5.6% boys and 94.4% females (1 boy, 17 girls). Freshman class is made up of 21% boys, 79% girls (3 boys, 14 girls). We discussed which communities are in our district. Discussions reflected that the higher number of girls may be consistent with the admission ratios.

Subject: New Trends in Occupational area

Discussion: Next year school related class is being brought back due to hours issue in some vocational programs. It had been decided that Biotech students would take anatomy and physiology. Deb and Arlyssa asked what type of course would be most beneficial for new hires entering the biotech workforce. Many members felt that a programming course would be more useful with new trends in bioinformatics and automation. Python would be a good way to go because it is commonly used and easy to transition from one programming language to another. Everything in biotech industry is moving towards automation and digital systems so programming knowledge would give our students opportunities and would have advantages. Data integrity is a concern and is being made a priority in many organizations. We discussed keeping of equipment logs and SOPs as well as adding more skill calibration & maintenance to our program. May want to consider sending kids out on job shadow days,

Subject: Employment Outlook

Discussion: The employment outlook in the biotech industry is good as the field continues to grow. The discussion shifted to finding work experience for the program's Juniors and Seniors. The program currently has 2 Seniors at Harvard Life Sciences Outreach for paid internships. It was suggested that perhaps our students may be able to work as lab techs or assistants at colleges & universities.

North Shore and Endicott tend to employ their own students in such roles but some schools such as Roxbury community college, may be interested in taking on our students. Arlyssa reported that Amy Lovasco from Pfizer contacted her directly about establishing a relationship to consider ENSATS students as a pipeline for job candidates. They are in process of selecting a visit date. Arlyssa also reported about a successful visit/meeting with a CVS Youth Staffing Director. Deb explained that each year she emails companies within a 20 mile radius and gets little to no response. One resource that has not been previously considered is to target recruiters/staffing companies to develop a relationship with the school for appropriate job openings. Some examples of staffing firms are: Kelley services, Personify, Randstat, Stratacuity, Clinlab Staffing, Propel Careers - mention Gene from Endicott.

Subject: Recommendations

Discussion: It may give the program more good publicity and visibility to create a program Linked In page where instructors can post what students are working on, this could potentially lead to opportunities for students. We should support job shadow opportunities or bring to administration the idea of making a certain # of job shadow days a requirement. Focus on materials managing, and python programming. Phil mentioned that CRL can give the program some mouse ES cells to try culturing with students.

Subject: Industry recognized credential survey

Discussion: Group visited the link and filled out the survey.
Click on About You under the Fill in About You Page.
http://massconnecting.org/credentials/default.asp

The meeting adjourned at (time): 8:45 pm