

Clean Energy Technology & Entrepreneurship Advisory Committee Meeting  
Friday, December 8, 2023, 10:30am – 12:00pm

In-person:

Uzma Siddiqi – Seattle City Light  
Lindsey Virdeh – Shoreline instructor  
Will MacArthur – A&R Solar  
Dave Gordon – Puget Sound Electrical Apprenticeship  
Gaurav Mehta – Sazan Group  
Dalila Paredes – Shoreline Acting Executive Dean of STEM

Online:

Mario Rossi – Shoreline instructor  
Benjamin Roldan – Clean Tech Alliance  
Julie Wilcox – Puget Sound Solar  
Gus Williams – City of Seattle  
Lauren Hadley – Shoreline Director of Workforce  
Krishnan Gowri – Shoreline instructor (and industry)  
Brian Young – (WA State Department of Commerce)

Lindsey welcomed everybody and facilitated introductions including Dalila Paredes, the new Acting Executive Dean of STEM. Dalila said CET is a promising department with lots of opportunity, potential, and untapped energy. She expressed excitement to see what the future holds.

Lindsey facilitated the vote for approval of the 3-10-23 and 6-9-23 meeting minutes: Approved.

Lindsey gave some program updates.

- Post-Covid enrollment trends are of concern.
- There have been three recent certificates and one AAAS degree issued. Three people are looking for work.
- Solar instructor Alisha Turpin is moving on and an instructor will be needed for the hybrid solar classes.
- Winter quarter the Career Seminar, NRG 202 has been brought back and will be taught by Lindsey. Her “Ask” is for committee members to consider being on the panel for mock interviews.
- Lindsey is involved in updating articulation agreements with South Seattle College and Cascadia College.

Dalila spoke briefly about future vision of the program and a hope to have a full-time position supported by the college.

Lindsey facilitated discussion around program prioritizing commitment of time/energy/resources, asking committee to review and rank program priorities list which includes: SketchUp; solar installation; NABCEP certification; NSF grant in energy storage; energy code classes/DOE grant; solar design and energy modeling pathways; and Sustainable Business Certificate sunset option within CET. Input on the above items will help in determining where we spend our time and energy within the program.

Opportunity grant options and Perkins funding were mentioned as ideas for funding NABCEP certification costs. Input included the improved opportunity for hire as well as acquiring the certification locally instead of going to Portland. The anticipation of more people needing NABCEP certification in the future was brought up as well as the possible intersect with high demand for electrical apprenticeships, depending on the outcomes within solar energy policy (consumer protection language is in draft form).

Gus asked what the “Ask” is of the committee. What ways can the board partner with the city to expand the reach to connect people of color within South Park Georgetown area with Shoreline Community College and into the solar industry? Dalila mentioned the model currently used within Biomanufacturing that works well with larger institutions like Fred Hutch and Seagen, showing commitment from industry and business partners to students through internships and pathways for students. For CET, if board members and partners could offer internships before the CET program, or the summer after the program, and commit to get them through by sponsorship, this aligns with Dalila’s perception of where we are at in education and the future of prof tech industry. In addition, she mentioned the college is intentionally partnering with diverse communities such as Refugee and Immigrant Services Northwest.

Benjamin listed some of the existing programs that he is aware of through working with CleanTech Alliance. Lindsey mentioned Career Connect similarities to the Amazon Certificate she’s been working on with Reeves Clipper (as a sponsor) with the college.

Julie and Lindsey discussed some of the demographics of Shoreline students. Mario mentioned keeping the program broader than solar as related to the general concerns about energy efficiency, how it can be generated, and used in a sustainable way. Gus and Uzma affirmed ideas surrounding stackable offerings so students can apply for multiple positions within industry. Concerns expressed: industry needs (for example, installers); credits not transferring since program is a workforce development program (to re-train for job or career transition); desire for more articulation agreements with other colleges that have BAS degrees; various meanings of “entry level” terminology; and the importance of staying focused on objective of the program for apprenticeships.

Dalila suggested the list be updated and sent out to be prioritized. Lindsey followed up, asking if everyone knows where the program goes: Solar PV design and energy modeling training where students can take classes they want (which is not necessarily a pathway).

Lindsey wrapped up the meeting mentioning she will send out an updated list for prioritization and thanked everybody for their input. She also said a committee chair is needed where chair does the agenda and Lindsey sends it out and Lindsey meets with the chair about an hour before each meeting. (For the year, it is about a three-hour commitment.) Lindsey has a goal to call people more often. Dalila said a committee member taking ownership of the chair position will help us actively listen to the committee about their thoughts and needs within industry.

Adjournment at 12:01pm