



**Shoreline Community College**  
16101 Greenwood Avenue North  
Shoreline, WA 98133

## **Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) Program MLT Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, June 8, 2015 – 4:00-5:00pm  
Central Conference Room, 1000 Bldg.**

**Present:** Soraya Aalami, Tina Carpenter, Kelly Johnson, Anne McGrew, Linda Breiwick, Molly Morse, Sue Seegers, Dan Fey and Cathy Otto.

**Absent:** Roy Antiquiera, Dorothy Canavan, Jackie Degler, Kristin Engstrom, Shelley Lankford, James Nakasone, and Mary Rickel.

The meeting was started at 4:05pm by Sue Seegers, acting Chair. Members introduced themselves.

One new member, Soraya Aalami is a graduate of University of Washington with BS in Molecular Biology and then completed the Shoreline CC-MLT Program. At Shoreline CC she was awarded the Linda Breiwick MLT Program Scholarship. She is certified as an MLT (ASCP), and has also become certified as a Molecular Biology Technologist. She currently works as a Molecular Technologist II at Phenopath.

Cathy Otto as new Dean for Health Occupations, PE and Business Division at Shoreline CC is also a new member on the MLT Advisory Committee. She has been active in ASCLS and is past ASCLS President. Otto earned a Ph.D. in Law, Policy and Society: Health Policy at Northeastern University, Boston. She also holds an MBA from Portland State University, a BS in Medical Technology from Oregon Health Sciences University and a BS in Microbiology from Oregon State University.

Another new member, Roy Antiquiera is a Medical Technologist II at The Polyclinic at Madison Center. He has been involved in coordinating and training Shoreline MLT students and has been dedicated to student success. We welcome our new community members to the MLT Program Advisory Committee.

The Minutes to the November 19, 2014 meeting were reviewed. Sue asked if there were any changes or additions, and there were none. The minutes were approved as presented.

Sue Seegers passed out a summary of the 2013-2014 graduate MLT survey. These students started in September 2013, and graduated August or December 2014. Graduate Surveys were sent to graduates early April 2015. This gave graduates enough time to study for and take the MLT (ASCP) examination, and seek employment. Twelve graduates (12/20 graduates) responded to the survey. All except one student had found an MLT job. Seventy per cent of MLT jobs were in hospital clinical laboratory settings. Students took 2 weeks to 4 months to find employment following graduation. Students indicated that they worked in all areas of the laboratory with 70% indicating they worked in urinalysis and hematology, and 80% indicating that they were working in Chemistry. The salary range was \$18-\$24/hr with the most frequent response as \$23/hr (3).

Discussion from the survey covered many topics.

- One student comment was that there should be a practicum in bloodbank. The MLT 245 course is a combined lecture, lab and practicum course. Cathy Otto recommended that we share with students how generous Bloodworks Northwest (formerly Puget Sound Blood Center) is for not only teaching the course, but donating, time, supplies, reagents and setting up the lab on the Shoreline CC campus. Molly said that an announcement would be placed on the CANVAS eLearning course, and would make sure that students knew of the expertise and work behind Bloodworks NW setting up the summer course.
- Tina Carpenter asked about creating a survey question that would give more detail of the areas that MLTs worked in the clinical laboratory. Cathy Otto suggested from the content area, having a drop down menu to select per cent of time in each area. Tina thought that it was important to get more information on MLT graduates working in Microbiology.
- Members discussed the value of knowing facilities where graduates had been hired. Sue said that the MLT program does track employment following graduation. Cathy Otto thought that this would be a good point to address in the NAACLS accreditation report.

Molly reported that facility feedback is summarized each year. This is the first year that we asked graduates for employer contact information, and a survey would be developed for direct feedback.

Sue reported that there were 9 phlebotomy students currently in the Spring/Summer Phlebotomy program.

Molly reported that there are 21 full time MLT student and 2 part time MLT students. One MLT student has dropped the program. One part time student graduates in August 2015 and the second part time student will graduate August 2016.

Linda Breiwick reported that the Shoreline CC Foundation fund for the Linda Breiwick MLT Program Scholarship had a balance of \$3,400. Scholarship announcement would be made later in June pending appointment acceptance into the MLT Program. No current students in the MLT Program had applied for the scholarship. A questions posed to the committee was when to tell students about these scholarships. Molly responded that students are informed of professional organization scholarship information at the beginning of the program, but the scholarship applications were not due until April. It may take more active recruiting for students to apply for scholarships. Molly mentioned either using a CANVAS format or creating a leadership course to dispense additional professional information to students. Soraya said that she had taken a class like that at University of WA and this is how she found out about the Shoreline CC-MLT Program. Cathy Otto asked if any students had applied or received Siemens scholarships.

Dan Fey reported that funds were available to purchase a refrigerator for the MLT student lab. The refrigerator was needed for the summer MLT 245 Blood Bank course, and was used recently by the

phlebotomy program students for specimen storage and processing. We were also able to store microbiology media for extended period of time.

Molly presented MLT Program diversity statistics from 2003 to present with respect to age, sex, and ethnicity. The MLT Program is seeing more students with degrees in the Certificate of Proficiency pathway. People returned for training due to unemployment or career changes.

Cathy Otto commented on the budget and reported that she had requested an increase in goods and services to meet MLT Program NAACLS accreditation costs this coming year. The program is responsible for transportation, hotel and food costs for the survey teams.

Molly Morse and Sue Seegers talked briefly about the NAACLS accreditation and that the document was online with a combination of narrative reports and attachments. Molly said that getting certification number information for clinical facility trainers was going to take time.

Sue Seegers mentioned that we would be completing application process this week, and sending out MLT Program appointment acceptance forms next week. Molly commented that due to LIS and analyzer implementation projects and mergers that clinical training rotation training agreements were still pending. She reported that she since the CHI Franciscan affiliation agreement had been signed, that she would ask some clinical laboratory facilities that had not trained in a couple of years. One of the challenges of clinical training rotations was getting microbiology training rotations. Tina Carpenter asked if it were possible to train on campus. Cathy Otto suggested getting specialist in microbiology to teach a practicum course. Molly commented that she had considered having clinical facilities train in microbiology set up and return to campus to work on specimen identification. Molly said that a session at CLEC talked about reducing clinical rotation time, and preparing students with online assignments prior to training. We agreed that these were options to explore.

With no further discussion or business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.