MINUTES

Computer Science Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 21, 2019
6 pm – 7:20 pm
BMCC Pioneer Hall, Room 132

Attendees:
Robert Theriault, CS Instructor, Hermiston School District
Jordan McDonald, Network Technician/Sales Engineer, Windwave Communications
Sharon Wei, Data Scientist, Public Policy, Amazon Web Services
Jenny Thibodeau, Manager, US West Public Policy, Amazon Web Services
Tony Burkart, Manager, Economic Development, Public Policy, Amazon Web Services
Todd Milev, Community Relations Operations Manager, Amazon Web Services
Donna Rainboth, GO-STEM, EOU
Jennifer Pambrun, CTE Coordinator, IMESD

BMCC Staff:
Dennis Bailey-Fougnier, President, BMCC
Daniel Anderson, Dean of Transfer and Instruction, Arts and Sciences, BMCC
Wade Muller, Dean of CTE and CE, BMCC
Stan Beach, Department Chair, Math & Computer Science, BMCC
Peter Hernberg, Instructor, BMCC
Greg Schulberg, Instructor, BMCC
Gary Parker, Instructor, BMCC
Liz Corbett, Scholarship Coordinator, BMCC
Viki Lange, BMCC Foundation Board Member, BMCC
Jonathon Macias, Student, BMCC (and parents)
Joan Cardenas, Student, BMCC
Jean Reiher, Recorder, BMCC

Call to Order
Stan Beach opened the meeting at 6:00 pm

I. **Welcome**
   Daniel Anderson introduced Dennis Bailey-Fougnier, the new President of BMCC.

Dennis thanked the attendees and asked them to be honest in their advice. (Unfortunately, he had to leave to attend another meeting.)

Daniel Anderson also thanked the attendees and reiterated the need for their advice because it helps our faculty teach better and connects our students to resources in the community. Our faculty is excellent; they prepare students for diverse careers from teaching elementary education to succeeding in rigorous engineering graduate programs. They care deeply about the students and improving their outcomes. They are innovative in teaching methods and are always striving to improve.

Stan said that the agenda has changed since it was emailed out, so topics will be in a little different order.

Gary Parker introduced himself and said that he teaches Math and Computer courses on Quantitative Literacy such as Statistics, Math for Elementary School Teachers, Intro. to Programming, and hosts Hour-of-Code events with ~75 elementary school students and some parents. (Unfortunately, Gary had to leave to go teach a class.)

II. **Buffet Dinner**

III. **Introductions**
Stan asked advisory board members to introduce themselves.
Viki Lange: Thanked Amazon and other donors for the scholarships which have changed students' lives.
Liz Corbett: Very positive experience working with Amazon and other donors. Thanks for the hard work to get things done.
Jennifer Pambrun: Facilitates Computer Science courses in area high schools that lead to a CS credential from BMCC.
Donna Rainboth: Helps build pathways for students from high schools to college
Todd Milev: Builds partnerships in the communities in which they work
Tony Burkart: Builds partnerships in the communities in which they work
Jenny Thibodeau: Amazon is always hiring, so the "pipeline" of preparing students for the workforce is very beneficial.
Sharon Wei: Conducts economic impact studies on the partnership between Amazon and BMCC.
Jonathon Macias:
Joan Cardenas:
Jordan McDonald:
Robert Theriault:
Greg Schulberg:
Wade Muller:
Daniel Anderson:
Jean Reiher

Pete Hernberg:
Stan Beach: Thanked everyone for coming. Asked Daniel to discuss all the new administrative changes at BMCC.

IV.   BMCC News

Daniel talked about the new leadership at BMCC – Dennis; John Fields, the new VP of Instruction; and three new deans including Wade and himself. Also, Tammy Krawczyk, new Dean of Instruction: Corrections and College Prep. They are all open to new ideas, so please let us know what you need.

Jennifer Pambrun said she was at the Western Governors Pathway conference in Portland last week where Gov. Kate Brown in her keynote speech mentioned BMCC and the data sciences partnership with Amazon as an example of good things happening in Oregon in the Pathways program.

Stan congratulated Pete on being approved for a sabbatical in spring 2020 to work at a data center to get hands-on experience which will help us improve our data center technician program. Pete is excited and nervous about applying at Amazon and other data centers in the region.

V.   AWS Scholarship
Pete thanked Todd, Cornelia, and others at Amazon Web Services (AWS) for providing scholarships for 29 students, totaling $43,000. This funding is very important to community college students, many of whom face financial challenges every day. BMCC is grateful for the generosity of AWS.

Pete introduced two BMCC alumni who received scholarships.
- Jonathan Macias said that the scholarship money helped him get through school. He was a full-time student, who had to work to pay off his student loans. It's hard to work and go to school full-time. With the scholarship, he had money to pay his bills and his student loans so he didn't have to work which would have taken time away from his studies. He said that receiving the scholarship made him work harder to earn the necessary certifications and to be worthy of the honor. He announced that he was recently hired at Tech Systems and at Amazon! He expressed thanks to BMCC, AWS, the scholarship committee, and Pete for all the help you've given him and the other students. His proud parents came along with him to the meeting so they could hear him speak. His mother also thanked BMCC and AWS. She said this program allows students to get a good job locally with just a 2-year degree.
- Joan Cardenas said that the scholarship money gave him breathing room. He said his father works full-time, his mother is a homemaker, and he himself works part-time. The family appreciated the funds and allowed him to stop worrying about paying the

bills. Joan said the scholarship increased his motivation and helped him study harder. He expressed his appreciation for the scholarship and thanked Pete for running the program.

Pete and Liz provided a handout and explained that the first round of scholarships (Summer 2018) through the BMCC Foundation Scholarship Committee were awarded based only on need. Liz said that the scholarship targeted needs which were so well identified. All 13 students who applied received funding which totaled $27,000. In Fall 2018, eight students received a total of $8,000 (based on merit). Another eight students received $8,000 in Winter 2019 (based on merit).

Pete explained that the Data Center Technician Program targets industry "certifications" at the entry level (such as Contia, A +, Network +, Server +, and Linux +) so as students earned the certifications, they were awarded a scholarship in a later term.

Jennifer asked how many total students were in the program in the fall and winter terms. Pete said there were 20 in the summer, 14 students in the fall, and 12 in the winter term. The decrease may be due to the change from need-based funding to merit-based funding. The class schedule also changed which made it difficult for some students who were already employed. (They are not going to do that schedule this year.) Also, when the economy is good, students may choose to work instead of going to school to earn good money now and not think about the future.

Tony asked if the students who received scholarships stay in the area after they leave the program. Pete keeps track of the students and said that all the students have remained in the local area. Tony responded that that is highly beneficial for community workforce development and helps grow the local economy. Pete said that students are very focused on getting a job locally, and that having good-paying technology jobs available here is one reason that students are drawn to this program.

Others agreed that people raised in rural areas often prefer to remain in a rural area, and they are supportive of the community college offering programs to train people for local employment. People in a community working together over long periods increases the knowledge base of all and increases the continuity of the workforce.

Jennifer asked about tracking the students after they graduate. Pete said that he keeps in touch with the students to find out what they are doing. He has a spreadsheet! Jonathan added that he had offers to work in Seattle and in Portland, but found it difficult to quickly move someplace new without assistance (financial and otherwise). He wondered if anything can be done to help students with that in the future. Liz suggested that BMCC have a Career Center that would help with things like that.

Pete closed with another thank you to the scholarship committee for providing these opportunities for the students.

VI. **Data Center Technician Program Update**
Pete received 40 applications for the Data Center Technician Program in April, and selected 20 students in May 2019. He held an orientation last night (May 20) for the new students for the classes that will start in Boardman on June 24, 2019.

Pete summarized the background/experience of the incoming students. He will compile and share the demographic data. Many of the students have some college credits and are already working. He mentioned that ¼ to 1/3 of them are just out of high school. He capped the class size at 20 since he is the only instructor for now, but it's also wise to keep the class small so they don't flood the market with graduates (who tend to stay local).

VII. **Computer Science at BMCC: Fall Schedule, New Faces, Growth**
Stan said that the AAOTCS transfer degree program does not have many students in it because the Mathematics requirement (Calculus) is tough for some students.

Stan said there is also a Certificate of Completion for a course in Software Development.

Stan showed information about the new CS cluster of classes for Fall 2019 which was presented to and approved by the Advisory Board last fall and also received support from the Administration. Each class is 4 credits, and they are all taught online. The courses are:
- CS125i: Digital Imaging: Photoshop skills
- CS125m: 3D Modeling and Animation, Rendering, and Video Editing
- CS195: Web Development I: HTML, CSS, and JavaScript

These classes were taught several years ago and had 17-40 students each. Students can take any or all of these classes in any order. Courses like this may eventually lead to a Certificate of Completion in Web Design (these 3 courses plus a 2-credit CWE) or an AAS degree.

Jen added that high school teachers can promote these courses and show students that they are useful in career fields such as Design, Advertising, and Marketing so there is a workforce need for these classes

VIII. . **Closing Comments**
Stan announced that Robert Theriault, the CS Instructor in the Hermiston School District has just been hired as a new BMCC CS Instructor in Hermiston. He also introduced Jean Reiher, the new Academic Department Specialist.

IX.   **Discussion/Questions**
Jennifer said these classes teach skills that are useful in many local jobs since most businesses have their own websites. Stan said that the CWE portion is to help a local business or non-profit to build a website.

Tony said that these are valuable skills. Also, many people work online so they don't have to move away from home. These classes could be useful here.

Stan said that he wants to keep it fun and interesting for the students since they are electives.

X.   **Closing Comments**
Stan thanked everyone for their input and collaboration so that BMCC can continue to improve computer science course offerings and programs to better serve the workforce in our communities.

XI.   **Adjourn: 7:20 pm**

Recorder: Jean Reiher