

Horticulture
Fall 2022 Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: October 31st, 2022
Time: 2:00pm-3:00pm

External Participants: 5

Lucas Allen ~~FCAE~~ Agricultural Education Program Advisor
Chris Bausman ~~Grimson Valley Landscaping~~ General Manager
Carmen Lainez ~~Hampshire Farms~~ Director of Human Resources
Matt Ewert ~~Western DuPage Landscaping, Inc.~~ Associate Landscaper
Matthew Fredrickson ~~Midwest Groundcovers~~ Production Manager

Internal Participants: 10

Dr. Laure Borowicz President
Barbara Leach ~~Interim~~ Vice President of Instruction
Chase Budziak ~~Dean~~, BTE
Rich Alde ~~Horticulture~~ Faculty
Janet Gallagher ~~Horticulture~~ Faculty
Kimberly Rotella ~~Greenhouse~~ Specialist
Catherine Marsh ~~Adjunct Horticulture~~ Faculty
Terry Lynn Funston ~~Director of Curriculum & Program~~
LaCretia Konan ~~Dean of Workforce & Community Education~~
Katie Macias - Minutes

I. Program Update

Previous meeting minutes were reviewed without corrections. Current program enrollments were shared, identifying an increase in enrollment in fall 2022.

Students enrolled in the fall 2022 Field Studies course visited a variety of local and regional locations including Klehm Arboretum & Botanic Garden, Nicholas Conservatory, Anderson Japanese Gardens, Midwest Groundcovers, Blumen Gardens, Pizzo, and Hinsdale Nursery. Kishwaukee College and interns employed by these organizations provided tours to current students.

II. Curriculum and Student Outcomes

Revised curriculum has been implemented, which reduced credit hours for all certificates. All certificate programs are able to be completed in one year by a full time student.

III. Industry Update & Labor Market Discussion

Committee discussed how businesses train employees. Committee states most students coming out of the Kishwaukee College program are more skilled than entry level labor.

One of the challenges in industry is finding applicants with required training and retaining them. Because of this, many employers have focused on employee retention strategies. Some organizations have had to rely on staffing agencies for labor needs.

IV. Work-Based Learning

Committee is open to work-based learning programs and internships for horticulture students. Interview Day for spring internships will be held in person in early March 2023. An email will be sent out in January to save the dates for Interview Day and employee panel discussions.

V. Plans for Next Meeting

Spring 2013 Diesel Power technology meeting will follow Interview Day event in March 2023.