30277 Avenue 12, Madera, CA 93638

**Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting**

Date: Friday, May 6, 2022

Time: 9:00 am -10:30 pm

**Zoom Link for those wishing to participate online:**

<https://scccd.zoom.us/j/99778482570>

**Attendees:**

Seth Balaji-CSUF, Jay Mahil-Creekside Farming, John Bushoven-CSUF, Deisy Ruiz-MCC Job Developer, George Cartwright-MCC Criminology, Srini Konduru-CSUF, Juan Alvarez-USDA, Juan Alvarez-MCC, Tim Deniz-Liberty High School Principal, Alan Cade-MCC, Kristen Mckenna College and Career Readiness Director MUSD-, Ganesan Srinivasan-MCC Dean, Elizabeth Mosqueda-MCC Agriculture

**AGENDA:**

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Madera Community College Update – Ganesan Srinivasan
3. Madera Community College Agriculture Program Update (Elizabeth Mosqueda/Ganesan Srinivasan):
   1. Viticulture & Enology Program Development Update

- Advisory committee members were supportive of a viticulture and enology program. They are upset with the amount of growers transitioning from vines to orchards and want to see this decline.

-Thank you to Mrs. Krista Vannest who has helped us select the different equipment we’ll need for this program

* 1. Ag Mechanics Program Development

-Dr. Seth Balaji from Fresno State volunteered to help Dr. Mosqueda compile a list of equipment that this program will need.

-Thank you Dr. Sam Rodriguez for teaching PLS 11-Machine Tech this semester.

* 1. Center for Agriculture and Technology

Advisory committee members were reminded of our new Center for Agriculture and Technology (CAT) building at MCC and shown photos of the different rooms and student uses. They were also updated on AC2 and the Oakhurst Campus.

* 1. Current /Future Degree Offerings - pathways for all current programs

- Advisory committee members were happy to hear about the different courses offered in our Ag Plant Science and Ag Business programs. They were also supportive of starting up the Ag Mechanics program as there is a strong need of people with mechanized agriculture experience in this industry, especially for manufacturing and welding.

-PCA certificate of achieve was very well supported by industry partners as there is a strong need for more people to get this license, but not all want to get a bachelors degree to qualify to get the exam, therefore having this option will allow those who have worked directly under a PCA pursue this option. A motion was made for Elizabeth to create a Pest Control Advisor (PCA) CA

Motion-Dr. Seth Balagi – Elizabeth to create a PCA CA

2nd-Anil Shrestha

No objections or abstentions.

**Motion carried-Elizabeth will create a PCA CA for MCC**

-The Truck Driving Licensing program was very well supported by industry. They all agreed there is a very strong need for this in our community, so MCC was commended for starting this program up.

-Thank you to Dr. Seth Balaji for helping MCC find the equipment needed to run this program!

* 1. Student Success

-Jay Mahil was kind enough to donate 2 agriculture scholarships per year to agriculture students at MCC

-Thank you to community members who have provided guest lectures or tours to our students (Fresno State CIT and WET Center’s, Phoebe Gordon-Orchard Crops Farm Advisor, Tom Graci with Madera Irrigation District, Tim Sullivan-Irrigation.

-Advisory committee was updated on the various Agriculture courses offered this and next semester

* 1. Grant(s)
     1. Program Development 4th year: Summer Ag Camp 2022
     2. One time grant for international Ag experience-Spain Summer 2023
     3. F3 Initiative – Currently in Review
  2. Funding
     1. Perkins $145,000
     2. Strong Workforce $1.4M

NSF, USDA-MSP, EDA-F3 Initiative, “Finish in 5” with CSUF-DOE Grant were all talked about and supported by the Advisory committee members

1. Educational Program Partner Updates (K-12 and CSU)

Students have been working hard from Liberty High school and the FFA students have been participating in and placing in many competitions. They look forward to having more of their students attend MCC.

Fresno State partners were supportive of our work and look forward to building our Viticulture and Enology program as enrollment has been stagnant for them, so they are hoping more students will transfer over to CSUF from MCC.

1. Industry Partner Needs:
   1. Job Market outlook
   2. Workforce needs and skills development
   3. Possible Internship opportunities

Lots of job openings, many partners said they are happy to place students in internships if needed. Jobs include field managers, welders, mechanics for large equipment, and need to teach tech skills for ag workers.

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