**Roadrunner Farms**

**Advisory Committee Meeting**

College of the Desert, School of Applied Sciences and Business

**Meeting Minutes**

Date: Friday, August 24, 2017

Location: Mecca/Thermal Campus

Time: 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

**In Attendance:**

Mike Terry, PCA/CCA , Meeting Chair, College of the Desert

Margrit Chiriacor Rusche, CWA

Desiree Garza, USDA Farm Service

Jeff Percy, OceanMist

Ernesto Salceto, Student, College of the Desert

Alex Sanchez, Grimmway

Janell Percy, CWA

Francisco Diaz, Coachella Valley High School

Jeff Place, Professor (Turfgrass Management), College of the Desert

Eddie Vaca, Instructor (Environmental Horticulture & Turfgrass Management), College of the Desert

Zerryl Becker, Interim Dean of Student Access and School Relations, College of the Desert

Kenneth Meler, Lab Specialist, (Horticulture), College of the Desert

Kurt Leuschner, Professor, (Natural Resources), College of the Desert

Christyann Anderson, CTE Transitions Specialist, College of the Desert

**TOPICS**

1. INDUSTRY NEEDS:
2. Students need Business Communication Skills – Public Speaking Courses as degree requirement.
3. Food Safety – Microbiology certificate and degree are not geared toward the medical field (currently too biased toward medical NOT agriculture) – there is a difference between ‘’processing’’ and what is actually done on the farm, therefore, it may be necessary to have a specific degree. Special skills are needed. – (the current program in the microbiology degree is sufficient because it focuses on studying viruses, microorganisms, etc.
4. Certificate vs. degree- Agricultural specific English and Math are essential. Note that English, Biology 004 and Plant Science (currently online) all have prerequisites.
5. GIS course offered in Natural Sciences.
6. Fall 2019 – Create ways of getting students interested in this field by highlighting job prospects; salary forecasts; industry growth, etc.
7. Ongoing discussion is needed to determine what units and skillsets are required in order for a student to get a degree/certificate. Discussion should include the following topics -etymology, pesticide laws, and pest management.
8. Inform students that filling out FAFSA is required and that financial aid staff is available to assist. College of the Desert has financial aid outreach.
9. How to use Drones.
10. DISCUSSION TOPICS:
11. Students need basic language skills in order to succeed in this field.
12. Full-time faculty is imperative. 4-tiers to teaching (2-year degree and work/teaching experience.
13. Roadrunner Farms identity clarification.
14. Curriculum.
15. A Student-Peer Mentor program (FT Faculty and student). Coordinator needed.
16. Jobs statistics (location, salary, etc.).
17. Internships (location, industry partners, etc.).
18. Stackable Degrees can be made available for students (four 18-unit certificates and two 38-unit degrees).
19. A one-unit class called CAREERS.
20. Survey Students.
21. Fall 2018 projected programs date.
22. ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM. The next meeting is Friday, October 27, 2017 at 2:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Christyann Anderson, CTE Transitions.