

Mt. San Jacinto College – CTE Advisory

Introduction:

This advisory meeting includes Photography, Digital Media, CIS, and Audio Technology. The intent of the advisory is to have a discussion with industry professionals about the path of the CTE programs at MSJC.

Attendees:

Bill Bennett, Bill Bergin, Keith Hanz, Alan Marsala, Susanne Mata, Karen Stanton, Glenn Stevenson, Avid Salesperson.

Agenda:

Questions to be explored during this meeting are:

- Are the program objectives at MSJC well defined and measurable?
- Do the programs at MSJC meet the community's labor needs?
- Are there significant occupational areas not served by the CTE department that should be offered.
- Do the programs at MSJC provide students with enough technical, theoretical, manipulative, communication, human relation, and academic skills?
- Does the program have sufficient support services?
- Are the staff at MSJC current in the skills needed and techniques used in their occupational area?
- Are the equipment and tools sufficient in quantity and quality and current with those used in the workplace?
- Do follow-up studies show whether graduates have the skills needed to enter employment in their chosen field or to pursue further postsecondary education?

Date: September 30, 2020

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

10:00 – 10:10 Call to order and introduction. Glenn Stevenson began the meeting by introducing himself and the department he represents. He then asked for everyone else to introduce themselves and the organization that they represent.

10:10 – 10:25 Glenn Stevenson asked the panel if the Cisco and Cybersecurity program accurately aligned with the industry standards. Karen Stanton said that she believed that MSJC is following the Cisco Curriculum very closely which aligns with industry. Susanne Mata agreed and gave details of the Desert Consortium and how they can provide a practice lab environment to further enhance our courses.

10:25 – 10:35 From the discussion on meeting industry needs there was a great deal of discussion on doing a better job of developing student's soft skills. The entire group voiced their belief that there was a need to bring interview and resume building skills into the classroom.

10:35 – 10:45 Glenn Stevenson voiced a concern about the drop off in enrollment from the first Cisco course to the next and to the one after that. Karen Stanton suggested that it may be that students don't realize how big the job market is for Cisco Engineers and floated the idea of bringing in a Certified Cisco Engineer into the first Cisco course to explain what the job is, the current demand for the job, how a person's career can advance with Cisco Certification, and the pay structure for Cisco Engineers. Glenn Stevenson said he would have Amrik Randhawa follow up with Karen to schedule someone.

10:45 – 10:50 Susanne Mata and Karen Stanton spoke about the high demand for qualified Cybersecurity professionals. It was suggested that MSJC also develop a Cybersecurity degree to go along with the current certificate.

10:50 – 11:05 Bill Bennett stated concerns that MSJC did not have the infrastructure to handle a robust Cybersecurity, Cisco, and A+ programs. Glenn Stevenson said that this has been an ongoing problem and that we were currently borrowing NetLabs space from another community college. This brought up the discussion about the problems getting what is needed at MSJC. Problems discussed were power, connectivity, and security. In the end the question was asked if server space can simply be rented. Karen Stanton said that there were plenty of schools around that have more than enough server space and would be willing to partner with another school to offload some of the cost. She said she would provide a list of a few for us to follow up with.

11:05 – 11:20 Glenn Stevenson voiced his concern that CIS professionals have been saying that recent college graduates are not prepared to work in high tech jobs. Industry CS professionals are giving students simple programming exams when they interview potential candidates. The result is that most cannot answer rudimentary questions. The discussion centered around two possibilities. One is that grade inflation has led to less rigorous classes. The second possibility is the amount of plagiarism going on. It was brought up that the answers to all certification exam questions can now be found online. One of the suggestions was that departments have students develop a portfolio of their work. The idea being that this would show the quality of their work. There was not total agreement that this would solve the problem.

11:20 – 11:25 Meeting adjourned.