



# LOS ANGELES SOUTHWEST COLLEGE COMPUTER SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES



Location: Zoom  
Date: Tuesday May 3, 2022  
Time: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

## Minutes

<p><b>Present Members:</b></p>	<p><b>Shana Allen</b> (Future-Ready Skills, Microsoft), <b>Mohsen Beheshti</b> (Computer Science Department Chair, California State University, Dominguez Hills), <b>Fariba Bolandhemat</b> (CS Adjunct Faculty), <b>Gilbert Bouzeid</b> (Lead Technical Product Manager- eBay), <b>Lawrence Bradford</b> (LASC VP, Academic Affairs), <b>Naja El-Khoury</b> (LASC, Professor of Computer Science), <b>Majid Haghoo</b> (LASC, Professor of Computer Science), <b>Shirin Herrington</b> (LASC &amp; LAVC, Professor of Computer Science), <b>Krystin McCauley</b> (Industry Executive, Microsoft), <b>Allison Moore</b> (LASC Business and Computer Science Department Chair), <b>Osman Morgado</b> (LASC IT, Instructional Assistant), <b>Keith Parker</b> (Parker Consulting), <b>Neelam Panjabi Rozario</b> (Business Owner – Sai Technical Training Labs), <b>Laura Perez</b> (LASC, Dean of Adult, Non-Credit, Continuing, and Community Education), <b>Nino Shtromberg</b> (Valley Assessment Center / CalWORKs Program / Helping Hands Project, Coordinator, LAVC).</p>
<p><b>Date</b></p>	<p>05-03-2022</p>
<p><b>Time</b></p>	<p>9:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Location</b></p>	<p>Zoom</p>
<p><b>Minutes</b></p>	<p>Naja El-Khoury</p>

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**9:05am** – *Call to Order and Agenda’s approval.*

**9:06am**

N. El-Khoury called the meeting to order at 9:05am and thanked everyone for their participation. N. El-Khoury noted the importance of the advisory board in determining the future of the CS direction. Agenda and minutes were sent out to the committee members. N. El-Khoury requested a motion to approve today’s agenda. Motion to approve agenda moved by A. Moore, second by L. Perez. No discussion. No objection. No abstention. Agenda approved by committee.

**9:06 am** – *Minutes Approval of 08/17/2021 Advisory Board.*

**9:07 am**

N. El-Khoury stated that topics and presentations from last year still applicable today. N. El-Khoury requested a motion to approve the minutes from 08/17/2021. Motion to approve minutes moved by L. Perez, second by M. Haghoo. No discussion. No objection. No abstention. Minutes approved by committee.

**9:07 am** – *Welcome and Introductions.*

**9:20 am**

All participants introduced themselves stating their role, experience and their affiliation. Please check the attendance section for participants’ position.

Gilbert Bouzeid: “Happy to join and provide my insight and share my 15 years of experience in Cloud industry and overall technology industry for over 25 years.”

Mohsen Beheshti: “We have been in collaboration with LASC since 2011 starting with cybersecurity. I am the director of CAHSI INCLUDES, computerized Hispanics institutions for the California region, which includes almost all of the CS, UCs and few Community Colleges. Naja is part of it but we would like to see more involvement, because we provide research. We love for students to take as many courses at Community College and come to use to complete a degree.”

Fariba Bolandhemat: “Happy to be here and learning about new programs that are coming into computer science.”

Keith Parker: “I have been in managed service provider in Los Angeles for over 25 years and I am excited to be participating in the advisory board because I am someone that interviews people that come out of these programs. I get to see the skill sets that folks bring and the discrepancy that I observe when I interview people come from underrepresented areas and I’m anxious to do what I can to help improve and shape as much as I can these folks.”

Krystin McCauley: “My concentration areas educational technology my research is around digital literacy for minority college students I’m very passionate about equipping all students but also particularly underrepresented minority students with the skills they need to be prepared for the workforce.”

Majid Haghoo: "Computer Science faculty with over 20 years of experience. Thanked Naja and Allison for their leadership".

Neelam Panjabi Rozario: "We have been working in this business for over 25 years providing furniture and vocational CTE equipment including electronics construction engineering. A fun fact is that my dad actually taught at Southwest college in the electronics department for over 25 years until I used to visit it in the 80s and the 90s and it's amazing to see how it's grown and changed, and thank you for including me."

Nino Shtromberg: "Very excited about getting into the field of teaching and pursuing my master's degree in business. Part of the program here at LAVC, we're working very closely with a dual enrollment and high school students that are welcome to college as an introduction to computer science department."

Shana Allen: "I work at Microsoft and I'm a feature ready skills team and our US education department and thanks for having me and I am excited to give you guys an update on some things that are happening in Microsoft in regards to certifications."

Shirin Herrington: "I am full time faculty at LAVC joined the CS department last year. Prior to that, I worked in the IT department for LAVC for about 20 years and I was an adjunct faculty for about 10 years of that 20 years, so, I had two jobs at the same time, at some point. I'm super happy to be here to get ideas and to hear new developments."

Osmin Morgado: "As Computer Science lab manager at LASC, I have close contact with all of the students that come into my area. So, I see their need and when they are having trouble. We were fortunate that just before the epidemic we upgraded our equipment here that we could actually handle all these new courses. I appreciate also people from Dominguez hills, which I know a lot of our students transfer to, so I am very happy to have people here from Dominguez hills, so thank you definitely Thank you all of you for taking your time to be here because not everybody makes times to help others."

9:20 am – **Dr. Lawrence Bradford, LASC VP, Academic Affairs.**

9:25 am

L. Bradford welcomed everyone on behalf of the College President Dr. Awan Seher. He shared with the committee his excitement to join the meeting and shared with committee that the CS will be hiring new instructor. He commended everyone for their hard work and wished the committee a productive meeting and stated that any pearls of wisdom that the committee members endow up us to help our programs. He was pleased to see Cal State Dominguez Hills joining the meeting as well as industry partners Microsoft and e-Bay. Advisory committees play an important role because they give us part of the blueprint and develop our pathways with respect to what we should be doing and what is happening in the industry and we know how fast technology changes. L. Bradford stated that the college needs your expertise and access to your internships to

benefit our students. He commended the work and leadership of the department chair and the Dean. L. Bradford shared his enthusiasm and support to STEM programs and shared with the committee that his son was just admitted to the University of California Berkeley in the aerospace engineering program and Computer Science is an adjacent discipline as well as Physics. He asked the committee of ideas on how enhance our programs and attract more students of color and more women into this discipline.

**9:25 am – 9:30 am** – *Dr. Allison Moore, Chair of Business and Computer Science and Related Technologies Department.*

Thanked everyone for their support to our efforts on behalf of our department specially the Computer Science and Computer Information Systems discipline.

A. Moore seconded what L. Bradford said that we need to attract more of students of color into the Computer Science. What we are doing is amazing, one of the places that we've seen just a tremendous amount of growth this year is in dual enrollment program and I am excited because one of the things we know that getting students into STEM fields is vitally important that we reached out earlier, rather than later. We are hoping that high schools' students become more interest in basic skills and maybe some advanced skills and to continue to a career in computer science. One of our challenges ahead of us is that the electronics instructor retired, and we need to bring those skills back. A. Moore commended N. El-Khoury for his dedication and leadership work in the computer science. She concluded by sharing her appreciation to all of committee members for their inputs, guidance and their support.

**9:30 am – 9:32 am** – **Ms. Laura Perez**, Dean of Adult Education, Non-Credit, Continuing, and Community Education

Acting CTE, Strong Workforce Development, Perkins V, Business Department, and Career Center

I have the absolute privilege to work with Dr. Moore and Professor El-Khoury and support them in this endeavor. I am super excited to be here today and it really warms my heart to nit see industry partners but, as well as educational partners. One of the goals of LASC is always to bring our curriculum to the rigor and the standards of what the needs of the industry are. I am also excited to see what we need to do to bring skill sets for our students to the next level, so we can provide the best future employees for all your industry and also to successful, as a transition to four-year institution. Thank you so much for having me here and I'm excited to learn more about the computer science discipline and welcome everyone.

9:32 am – *Professor Naja El-Khoury, Computer Science*  
9:57 am

N. El-Khoury stated this year agenda will be more of questions focused on concerns that we are facing. The contents of the presentations that we shared last year still applicable. He thanked both presenters from last year and commend all members for their willingness to serve on the CS Advisory Board. N. El-Khoury referred to the questions in the agenda are the platform of our discussion. He covered the agenda and outlining the questions that form our conversation. N. El-Khoury said the advisory board is the inception phase for any program that we want to develop at Southwest College. So, it is very important to solicit advisory board members inputs on the direction that we have to take. The advisory members are the expert in their field and we appreciate your support and feedback. The advisory board minutes are required when we submit an application for new program and the board endorsement for our new program is important for state approval. N. El-Khoury announced that there are two sets of programs will be presented before the Advisory Board. Set of programs were approved last year and they need reaffirmation, and the new set has 3 new baccalaureate programs for the board vetting. He stated that would like to end the meeting with board recommendations. These recommendations will be the blueprint for next year. N. El-Khoury shared with the advisory board a presentation outlining key updated of Computer and Applied Technologies:

1. Computer Science Update.
2. Technology Academy.
3. Programs Status.
4. Partnerships.
5. Future Plan.
6. New Programs Proposal.

**Item 1. Computer Science Update:**

N. El-Khoury shared the computer science update focusing of the following points:

- District enrollment -19%
- Noticeable increase in Computer Science
- Continue developing new in-demand programs
- Realign our curriculum to Career pathways
- Faculty and Staff Technology Bootcamp
- Collaboration with noncredit

- Community Outreach

## **Item 2. Technology Academy:**

- **Alliance Judy Ivie Burton Technology Academy High School**
  - 13 students completed Homeland Security Network Administrator Certificate of Achievement – Parent night (First Virtual Graduation Ceremony on June 10, 2021)
  - 9 students advanced and earned second certificates in Homeland Security and Computer Networks (Second Virtual Graduation Ceremony on March 10, 2022)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Cohort pursuing their degree in Homeland Security Network Administrator Certificate of Achievement (expected to complete their degree in Fall 2022)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Cohort will start in Fall 2022
  - Delivered around 90 workshops: Google Suite, Python, & Student Master
- **New Designs Education Group (Watts Campus)**
  - On hold
- **UCLA MANN**
  - Cohort continue in Cloud Computing (Fall 2022)

## **Item 3. Programs Status:**

N. El-Khoury covered the CS prerequisite courses: CIS 100, CIS 101 and CIS 104 and the related workshops provided: Google Suite, Python, and Becoming a Master Student. N. El-Khoury shared with the committee list of courses that make each certificates below. For more detailed information, please review N. El-Khoury presentation.

### **APPROVED:**

1. ICT – Communications Technology Essentials (15 Units)
2. ICT – Cybersecurity Technology Essentials (15 Units)
3. ICT – Information Technology Essentials (12 Units)
4. ICT – Media Technology Essentials (12 Units)
5. Cloud Computing – AWS
6. Homeland Security Network Administrator (15 Units)
7. Homeland Security and Computer Networks (21 Units)
8. Apple Coding Foundations (18 Units)
9. Apple Coding Developer (18 Units)

PENDING STATE APPROVAL:

1. Cloud Computing – Azure AI – Certificate of Achievement (18 Units)

UNDER DEVELOPMENT:

1. Artificial Intelligence Foundations – Certificate of Achievement (18 Units)
2. Software Engineering – Certificate of Achievement (21 Units)

PROGRAMS REAFFIRMATION:

1. Artificial Intelligence Developer – Certificate of Achievement (27 Units)
2. Artificial Intelligence in The Industry – Certificate of Achievement (18 Units)
3. Artificial Intelligence – A.S. Degree (30 Units)
4. e-Commerce Foundations (18 Units)
5. e-Commerce Developer A.S. Degree (27 Units)
6. Google IT Support Professional (18 Units)
7. Big Data Certificate
8. Blockchain Certificate
9. Game Programming Foundations – 18 units – CoA
10. Game Programming Developer – 18 to 21 units – CoA
11. Game Programming Expert – 18 to 24 units – CoA
12. Cybersecurity (A.S. Degree)
13. Data Science Pathway (CoA / A.S.)
14. Ethical Hacking & Countermeasures (18 Units)
15. Cloud Computing A.S. Degree (27 Units)
16. Website Developer – 18 Units - CoA

**Item 4. Partnership:**

N. El-Khoury highlighted the effort for establishing and continue to strengthen the relationships with our partners: Microsoft, AWS, Apple, Pearson – Certiport (testing center), and California State University, Dominguez Hills, surrounding High Schools (Dual Enrollment) and Community Outreach (Inception Phase). N. El-Khoury thanked all partners and in particular Microsoft for donating 2 site licensing and each site is 500 certificate vouchers that the students can use to earn Microsoft certificates. N. El-Khoury thanked Shana and Krystin (Microsoft) for their instrumental support to the college. He also thanked all industry partners and educational partners for their invaluable support and he is looking forward to continue efforts to strengthen the relationships.

**Item 5. Future Plan:**

N. El-Khoury shared with the committee computer science future plan:

1. Develop more in-Demand Certificates.

2. Continue aligning programs and courses with Guided Pathways and industry recognized certifications.
3. Strengthen and develop new partnership with the industry.
4. Recruit Hight School students.
5. Community Outreach.

**Item 6. New Programs Proposal:**

Baccalaureate Degrees (Intent):

1. Cloud Computing.
2. e-Commerce.
3. Interaction Design (IxD).

N. El-Khoury stated that the committee will have chance to review and recommend the proposed new programs later in the meeting. Toward the end of the presentation, N. El-Khoury shared four links as "Interesting to Watch". Will we ever go back to normal?

M. Beheshti questioned that if LASC has enough students and faculty for all of the programs that are on the reaffirmation list. N. El-Khoury responded that we are in process of hiring new faculty and this list represents our blueprint of developing new certificates and proceeding with developing any of these programs depend on Regional recommendation based on LMI. There was a conversation on the prerequisites for each certificate. M. Beheshti recommended to concentrate on fewer programs on the list as priority. The recommendation was to concentrate on the following certificates:

1. Artificial Intelligence Developer – Certificate of Achievement (27 Units)
2. Artificial Intelligence in The Industry – Certificate of Achievement (18 Units)
3. Big Data Certificate (18 Units)
4. Cybersecurity (A.S. Degree)
5. Data Science Pathway (CoA / A.S.)

The list was reaffirmed and motion to concentrate on the above five certificates including Cloud Computing by M. Beheshti and second by S. Herrington.



9:57 am – Ms. Shana Allen – Future-Ready Skills Microsoft | US Education  
10:13 am

S. Allen stated that Krystin replaced Dolly at Microsoft. S. Allen stated that her presentation will cover The Microsoft Learn for Educators program briefly and then talk about some new things that are happening that are opportunities for students and faculty. The presentation was shared on the screen with other members. S. Allen said that the Microsoft Learn for Educators is an open online platform with lots of different learning paths and it takes it into the classroom so it provides instructor led training materials for the classroom to support specific path. Topics include: Microsoft cloud security Microsoft 365 our dynamics fundamentals, as well as recently released advanced role-based content.

The educators are getting the online training there they have access to the Microsoft official curriculum, as well as course data sheets and teaching guides and assessment guides. Site licenses that were gifted to LASC which includes up to 1000 certification exams. The deadline for using these exams was extended until 2022. S. Allen covered the contents of Microsoft Fundamentals Courses and Certifications:

Azure Fundamentals, Azure AI Fundamentals, Power Platform Fundamentals which goes right along with Azure Data Fundamentals, Microsoft Security, Compliance, and Identity Fundamentals (hot topic), Dynamics 365 Fundamentals Customer Engagement Apps (CRM), Dynamics 365 Finance and Operations Trainer (ERP) (which is really useful, we see a lot in the business program so in your finance), and Microsoft 365 Fundamentals\* (available June 2022).

The industry-recognized certification: AZ-900, AI-900, PL-900, DP-900, SC-900, MB-910, MB-920, and MS-900\*.

S. Allen added that about six months ago Microsoft released these advanced role-based content which just takes it to the next level for students really looking to advance their skills. S. Allen shared with the committee hot off press topic about introducing new certification initiative for students. This is a chance for students to do some learning after they do their learning that could be on their own pace or online or it could be in classroom. They just have to show that they have actually taking the time to do the learning and then they would gain in the practice exam voucher as well as a direct exam voucher to take any of the fundamentals and it is free offer for students. This could be for any school or any educational institution so for Dominguez hills or any of the others, this is brand new offer and it's really exciting so we're very excited to offer this and it's very easy for students to get started.

More detailed can be found in S. Allen's presentation.

**10:13 am – Members Comments**

**10:16 am**

Comments and questions were made and answered by S. Allen about this invaluable presentation and the information as well as programs offered by Microsoft.

**10:16 am – New Programs Proposal**

**10:23 am**

N. El-Khoury presented the new 3 baccalaureate degrees to the committee and requested a motion to approve these 3 baccalaureate degrees. Motion to recommend these new proposed programs moved by S. Herrington, second by M. Haghoo. Approved by committee.

**10:23 am -**

Discussion Topics:

**10:53 am**

1. What are the new norms implications?
2. Advantages and disadvantages of working/studying remotely
3. Learning Loss
4. Soft Skills vs. Hard Skills. Any changes in skills post COVID-19?
5. Careers in demand
6. Recommendations

N. El-Khoury introduced the above six questions and the frame of the discussions. Key discussion points: Employees are looking for hybrid with flexibly work modality. Changing back to where we were it is going to take time because of the gap created by COVID-19. Commute, gas price, and arrangements that people made are forces behind resisting for not going back and hybrid might be the most likely to stay for a while. From the industry perspective, people have moved away from the city and are not close to where they work so to bring everybody together, the question is to where?

The general sense that the industry is still virtual or hybrid mode and going back to the old norm might be difficult. Educational institutions are experiencing same challenge. For the Computer Science and Information Systems classes, on ground classes hard to make but the online classes make faster. Observation was made that when on-ground class converted to online, the class immediately filled. On the 4-year university going back to face-to-face has been challenging. Overall enrollment is down but for Computer Science. Community Colleges are the feeder for 4-year university. So, in the last two years community colleges experienced low enrollment so as the 4-year university.

One testimonial made by N. Shtromberg that while she was completing her undergrad surprisingly enough, she was looking for the online classes throughout her whole studies and then, once we ended up being at home online, I was very happy. One of the benefits was management of timing as I was able to manage the time a lot better than driving to the campus. N. Shtromberg shared with the committee her experience that this semester in her master's program, CSUN

introduced a modality that called influx, which is online class with three meetings on campus.

Learning loss was a concern for every member in the committee as some of the members are experiencing this issue with their sons and daughters. Some are struggling with prioritization and time management, putting things off and procrastinate and it's been a real issue.

As LACCD, A. Moore stated, we are moving toward HyFlex classroom and every college has dedicated some classrooms for the conversion. The struggle is what does HyFlex means and training faculty is another challenge. Hyflex is now another modality to add to the catalog that might confuse students.

Soft skills versus Hard skills: S. Allen shared that Microsoft was doing some research on this topic and couldn't find anything newer than what we had from 2020. Soft skills are very important. For students, the sense of belonging is important and addressing the culturally responsive curriculum through assignments is vital.

**11:53 am – *Members Recommendations***

**11:55 am**

Please refer to the New Programs Proposal section.

The next Computer Science Advisory Board was tentatively set by the committee on Tuesday May 2, 2023 from 9:00am to 11:00am.

**11:00 am *Adjournment***

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am. N. El-Khoury thanked everyone for their participation and the invaluable information shared with the committee.