**THE SANTA MONICA COLLEGE**

Earth Science Department Geospatial Technology Certificate of Achievement Program ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES FROM

March 21st, 2022 MEETING

The 2nd annual Earth Science Department Geospatial Technology Certificate of Achievement Program Advisory Committee meeting was held on Monday, March 21st, 2022 through a Zoom conference call. Jing Liu, the program faculty leader, at 12:03 p.m. called the meeting to order. Dr. Liu welcomed the twelve members that were in attendance. The attendees include the employers and employees in the fields for which the program is designed, the representatives from the four-year academic institutions the program is targeted at, the students who have completed the certificate program, the professionals from the City of Santa Monica community, the STEM Career Advisor from Santa Monica College Career Service Department, and the discipline faculty members.

# INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

All members introduced themselves as well as staff & faculty of the Earth Science Department.

List of attendees

* Justin Mank (Chief of the GIS Department Manager, City of Santa Monica)
* Lauren Hartz (Intern at the GIS Department of the City of Santa Monica, program graduate)
* Samantha Lustado (Senior Geospatial Analyst at Arup)
* Irina Koroleva (former employer at LA Sanitation, employer at Nature Conservancy, program graduate)
* Fay McDonough (employer of Apple, former intern at LA Water Keeper, program graduate)
* Cris Gutierrez (President of the Climate Action Santa Monica)
* Helen Malmgren (Mellon Professor of Practice at Xavier University of Louisiana, Former Producer at CBS 60 minutes)
* Petra Nichols (CSUN graduate student, program graduate)
* Joan Kang (Senior STEM Career Advisor from Santa Monica College Career Service Department)
* Jing Liu (program faculty leader)
* Jennifer Mason (program faculty)
* Raluca Owens (program faculty)
* Pete Morris (program faculty)

# MINUTES

The minutes of last year’s Advisory Committee were reviewed. Petra Nichols moved to approve the minutes as written. Helen Malmgren seconded the motion; minutes approved unanimously.

**MINUTES**

1. **Introduction**

* Dr Liu gave an overview of the new local certificate of achievement program map, including course list, number of units, timeline to completion, and the program pathway map that is used to guide students to complete the certificate within one year (four semesters).
* Dr Liu updated the board with the number of graduates from the program per year, about 10 students per year
* Dr Liu summarized the three typical pathways program students generally take to enter workplaces:
  + Enroll into a master program in a four-year institution (mostly UCs and CSUs)
  + Obtain an internship at a government agency or NGO, such as the City of Santa Monica, Nature Conservancy, and get promoted for a full-/part-time position
  + Obtain an internship at a private company, such Arup, Apple, and get promoted for a full-/part-time position

1. **Discussions (Panel format)**

* **Program upgrade discussion**:
  + Program faculty invited the advisory board to discuss the recommendation to upgrade the current program to a Career Technical Education (CTE) program for state chaptering.
  + The board discussed the sufficiency of the current curriculum of the program, specifically, the necessity to include programming courses as required courses. Based on the most recent Labor Market data and the numerous new opportunities that have emerged during the past two years, the board reached the agreement that the current curriculum of the program is sufficient to prepare students for entry level jobs at the workplaces.
  + The board unanimously recommended to move the current certificate of achievement program forward for state chaptering.
* **Online Learning Modality:**
  + Program faculty invited the advisory board to discuss the necessity to keep the online learning as the main teaching and learning modality of the program.
  + The board reached the agreement that online learning provides a more equitable learning environment for all students and is beneficial for keeping program enrollment and retention rates up. Working online has also become common at workplaces.
  + The board reached the unanimous agreement that the online learning modality should be kept as the main teaching and learning modality
* **Suggestions from the advisory board**
  + Expand the collaborations with other departments and programs in Santa Monica College and other colleges/universities to expose the SMC Geospatial Technology Program to a larger population of students.
  + Joan Kang, the Senior Career Services Advisor at the SMC Career Services Center, introduced the opportunity and the potential collaboration with employers to create internship for students.

1. **Adjournment**

The advisory board meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Jing Liu pending approval.