



Central Service Technician Program

Advisory Committee

April 13, 2015

Present:

Linda Breadmont, CRCST, Program Director
Nick Musumeci, CRCST, Instructor
Tom Klick, CRCST, Manager, Palo Alto, MC
Rachel Moree, CRCST, Manager, Kaiser Fremont
Paul Rueckhaus, Instructor, Health Science
Alice Erskine, RN, Chair, Surgical Careers Dept.

Joe Muraski, RN, Instructor
Julie Cahn, RN, CNS, LPCH
Erica Young, Student CST
Ijaz Ahmed, MD, Dir. Allied Health
Ray Hernandez, Dean, SMT Division

Linda Breadmont opened the meeting by asking Dr. Ahmed to describe the Purpose of the Advisory Committee: This is a requirement of the college to ensure the program is meeting the needs of the healthcare community for well-trained staff, to explore possible improvements to the program, and to make connections with the employers for the students.

Alice Erskine described the requirements for admission to the program: Applicants must be able to pass a Background Check and Drug Screening, and must show they are capable of performing the work through a physical exam and immunization screenings in accordance with the healthcare facilities.

Nick Musumeci and Joe Muraski describe the program structure: It is comprised of 3 semesters. The first semester is mostly the academic work following the curriculum of IAHCSSM with an introduction to some of the basic instruments. The student must pass this course to proceed to the second course where the focus is on the specialty instruments. The student must pass this course to be eligible to enter the Clinical Component offered at several hospitals. The whole course is 9 months long and provides the student with the 400 hours of clinical experience required by IAHCSSM to be eligible to take the national certification exam.

Erica Young gave her opinion of the program from the student's point of view. She said it is well organized with key points repeated several times. She likes starting each week with 2 days of academic lectures followed by one day of hands-on practice with the instruments.

Linda Breadmont reported the current cohort has 25 students comprised of a very diverse group of people. She notes there is good comradery in the class with students helping each other to study. There is a large number of applicants every year so the program uses a random selection process. At the Orientation, the new students are given a reality check about the

program design. After that, some students realize this program is not suitable for them. If someone drops out, the first person on the Waiting List is offered a place in the class.

Julie Cahn asked if any of the graduates enter the Surgical Technology Program. It was noted that some of the best students in the ST Program come from the CST Program. She also asked if any of the ST grads enter the RN Program. It was noted that several of the ST students have Nursing as their ultimate goal. There is a Nursing Program at our sister college, College of San Mateo.

Dr. Ahmed and Dean Hernandez described the clinical ladder of the Healthcare-related Programs offered at Skyline. **Paul Rueckhaus** explained the role of the Career Advancement Academy, a program offered to underserved students or students with no college students in the family to facilitate their entry into a career via a college-based technical program. Currently, a student may apply to the Academy to enter the Central Service Tech Program. The student is supported with counseling and financial assistance.

Dean Hernandez commented that the faculty and staff of the college are very active in Workforce Development. The College of San Mateo is looking to start a CAN program. Skyline is looking to start an Anesthesia Technician Program. It was also announced that the Skyline will soon offer a Bachelor's degree in Respiratory Care. There is currently a job opening for a part-time Clinical Coordinator for both the ST and CST Programs.

Community Issues were addressed by Rachel, Tom and Julie. Tom and Rachel spoke of the poor quality of students who attend the for-profit schools. They said they lack hands-on lab experience prior to entering the hospital. If the hospital staff is overworked they cannot handle a student who needs so much direction. Skyline students are appreciated because they come prepared to learn. Rachel said they can be very helpful to stretch the staff. Tom noted there are a large number of Baby Boomers retiring soon so they will need to hire many new CSTs.

It was asked if Skyline had plans to increase the number of students enrolled or the number of cohorts per year. Tom also wanted to know if Skyline markets to the South Bay area. The staff replied that the grads of each cohort then competes with each other for any available placements. Since, the applicants come from all over the Bay Area and there are many more applicants that the program can accept, there is no need to market the program.

Next meeting: September 14, 2015 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Alice Erskine