



## Surgical Technology Program

### Advisory Committee

March 27, 2018

#### Attending:

Alice Erskine, CST, MSN, CNOR, Program Director  
Mary McKay, CST, AS, Instructional Aide  
Ray Hernandez, CRRT, MPH, Dean of Science/Math/Technology Division  
Andrew Rosenberg, MD, Medical Director  
Carol Labarthe, Public Representative  
Rob Labarthe, Public Representative  
Josh Blair, CST, Practicing CST  
Aurore Etienne, CST, Practicing CST  
Jamaal Philyaw, SST, Student and Class President  
Anjal Pong, RN, Employer Representative  
Dolly Chan, RN, Employer Representative

#### I. Status of the Program

Retention Rate (2018) 91%: Admitted 22 new students, one withdrew for personal reasons. One previous student readmitted to Clinical Skills class but was not successful in passing final test.

Success Rate (2017) 95%: Of the new cohort, one student was not successful. Two readmitted students were successful bringing the rate up.

Graduate Surveys (2017): 94% Return Rate, and 84% Satisfaction Rate

The main point of dissatisfaction was the difficulty in finding clinical sites for students.

Employer Surveys (2017): 40% Return Rate, and 100% Satisfaction Rate

Clinical Assignments: There was a discussion about how to improve the clinical assignments. The number of clinical placements has decreased in the last two years. Those that have a satisfactory relationship with the school have been unable to accept students due to new building, new staffing, or a shortage of clinical or managerial staff, or competition with Periop 101 students. Another challenge is the distance a given student might have to travel to attend a clinical assignment. One student lives more than 2 hours from the school in an area where there are few hospitals nearby.

The committee made suggestions on how to increase the number of nearby sites: The Director has already increased the number of contracts with surgery centers and is seeking more. The use of clinics was not feasible since they cannot offer the kinds of procedures to meet the Required Case Load. The Medical Director offered to speak to the management of one of his facilities.

#### II. Jeanna Davis Award

This is a funding award to deserving students of Skyline College ST Program. Carol and Rob Labarthe announced that this year awards went to 16 students to help support them in their goal. Last year's awardees were all successful in completing the program.

### **III. Curriculum and Lab Update**

A class was added last year to help prepare the students to take the National Certification Exam. All students are required to enroll and to take the CST exam, giving the program a 100% participation rate. The exam pass rate for 2017 was 78%. It is hoped the pass rate will improve with the addition of a mandatory class.

The Anesthesia Technology Program is set to admit its first cohort this fall. The program is 16 months long and will provide an AS degree to all grads. New equipment is on order to improve the realism of the O.R. lab.

The Simulation Lab will open this fall. It contains three full-functioning manikins- an adult, a child and a premie. The goal is to provide realistic training in caring for patients in an emergency. Plans are in place to work with the Respiratory Care Program and the Anesthesia Tech Program to simulate a difficult airway incident in which a Surgical Tech student would assist with the insertion of a tracheotomy tube.

### **IV. Healthcare Community Issues**

Due to the building of new facilities all over the San Francisco Bay Area, there is an increased need for ST staff. However, most employers are seeking only experienced staff. There was discussion on how a new grad might be able to get experience. The Program holds a Job Fair every year inviting human resource personnel to meet the students at the college. The last Job Fair was well attended with 11 employers represented.

### **V. Student Issues**

The primary concern of the students is the lack of available clinical assignments and the delay in starting their training. The second most pressing concern is the certification exam. They were encouraged that a review course would be offered just a month prior to sitting for the exam.

**Next meeting date: October, 2018. Date to be announced.**