# Advisory Committee Interview Notes GIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE October 20, 2010

The CTECC welcomed Advance Technology Division Dean, Ken Murdoff; Lane Advisory Committee Coordinator and Instructor, Jane Benjamin; Committee Member and Instructor, Lynn Songer; and Community Advisory Chair, Ben Greiger, Project Specialist with Willamalane Parks.

### 1) <u>Committee Accomplishments</u>: **Excellent**

An advisory committee was organized from the beginning of the program. There are currently 12 members from various agencies and businesses with a diverse set of members. Most members have been in the industry for years. They meet 3 times a year, once each quarter. The committee has been fortunate with word of mouth member recruitment.

### 2) Committee Involvement in Planning and Design: Excellent

The committee is instrumental in helping to build curriculum and keeping the program informed with what is needed in the industry and with networking. Their committee provides a major contribution with planning curriculum, and to guarantee seats in the program from their current workers. The GIS program depends on their Advisory Committee, and they offer an excellent example of just how a committee works. The program and committee depend on each other in a symbiotic relationship.

The committee presentations in classes about career options. They participate in a student showcase each spring term for students completing the 4 term sequence, and student present their projects. Works as a pre=screening for internships. Some agencies host interns to use equipment that is not available at the college, and they can use their licensing at the businesses.

Their Members offer equipment for the college to use. There is an excellent sharing arrangement between agencies, businesses, and the college. Having an LCC station available helps keep skills honed outside the classroom.

## 3) Gender, Disability Adaptation, and Diversity: Meets Expectations

The program has more females than most schools. The program is under social science, rather than hard sciences. Out of 24 student in the lab, and they usually end up with 15-17 by end of program. It is a challenge to keep numbers up, but it is still greater than other colleges.

## 4) Program Demand / Enrollment: Excellent

The Committee helps drive enrollment. The program shows significant increase in demand and enrollment. There is a wide range of students, who come from other industries, as well as returning students from other areas of interest. Students require developed computer skills and ability for this virtual world. Many occupations use these skills, but may not require it.

GIS is not just for just hard sciences, but other applications as well. It is used in public health now, and social services, and can obtain demographic data for any industry. GIS can be a piece of many other jobs and is very broad. For instance, electricians might need a GIS component. GIS is rarely a person's whole job, and thee is a competitive advantage to have GIS as part of their work skills. Single course classes related to GIS provide an excellent taste for GIS classes. They offer a pathways certificate. GIS is offers the course twice a year, in fall and winter. They also offer one course classes, and an all day Saturday class to the police reserve academy. All courses are articulated with U of O and OIT.

GIS was funded by the National Science Foundation for 3 years. The submitted for a 3rd grant to fund working with high school teachers for concepts and skills with cartography and phyon scripting and data management.

#### 5) Placement / Employment: Meets Expectations

They try to track student's employment through surveys. The committee keeps the program informed, as well. In Oregon it's more challenging to get jobs, so students usually have to relocate out of the area to work, though they can gain experience here by volunteering and interning. It's still one of the fastest growing industries. Such technology based skills could see it done remotely, but not usually done at this time.

### 6) Secondary / Postsecondary Connections: Excellent

Desktop GIS is complicated and web based GIS that is very interactive. They have 24 high school and middle school teachers that they train to teach their student to introduce this career. This helps creates interest when they get to college. Cottage Grove has an alternative school that is working on a project for wet lands, and uses GIS skills for collecting data in their project.

The committee will be recruiting high school teachers.

#### 7) Questions for the CTECC Interview Committee:

They need info structure technical support in lab to provide help to keep lab state-of-the-art and working. The committee would like to see more grant money to make this a full blown program, and not just soft money, as it is a cutting edge example across the country.

#### CTECC Comments:

The members work well together as a committee to make this program happen, and the CTECC is impressed with the high school connections and special outreach.

#### NOTE: Please refer to the separate committee Self-evaluation for additional information:

