CCIT Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Members Present:
Dan Brown, James Farley, Tony Francisco, Muslim Gadiwalla, Chris Paul, Harold Shomaker

Members Absent:
Keith Archibald, Cindy Brown, Joseph Cuenco, Dan Doyle, Mayra Harley, Stephen Marcinek, Ryan Platt, Scott Talcott.

Other Attendees:
Susan Biszewski-Eber, Terri Dobson, John Long, Richard Smith.

Meeting called to order - 7:45 am

Approval of Minutes
Minutes from the October 25, 2017 Advisory Committee Meeting were approved unanimously.

Discussion
Due to low attendance at meeting a discussion took place about membership. Same members always attend meetings, show up for Capstone and help at events. A small amount of members were removed from membership for this year and it is looking like more will be removed next year.

Sharon had many inquiries because of her involvement in TBT from individuals who would like to become a member of this committee. Terri to contact Sharon for names.

Susan to contact Netwolves and Gina from Prxys to inquire about possible interest in becoming a member of this group.

Muslim and Chris to talk to Daniel at the event on Friday to see if he knows any TBT members who would be interested in membership.

James Farley would like to stay on as a committee member after he graduates. Can we add an alumni position?

Terri to find a new student to fill the gap that will be left by James. Also there was another student who graduated that we need to replace.

Apprenticeship Grant Update
There will be more money coming in for the Apprenticeship Grant.

IT companies are finally becoming more open to Apprenticeships, but are still not comfortable with mentoring. They are also not sure about the fast track intensive way the apprenticeship works. Susan is trying to help IT executives see that apprentices could help with the need they have to fill positions in their organizations that are hard to fill. Many organizations need to fill programming and cybersecurity openings in their companies and apprenticeships could fill that need. IT departments do not think the same way as the apprenticeship is aligned. Maybe the answer is to change the IT apprenticeship to trainee to better fit IT department thinking.

Susan is finding she had to change the companies she is looking at to start apprenticeships. Originally she was looking at Entrepreneurs and small start-ups, but has since realized larger companies like Vology, Agile Thought and Reliaquest are better fits.

Susan and John Duff will be meeting tomorrow with David Spindler from Tech Data. He is from the UK and most recently lived in Canada. Both countries use apprenticeships so he is ready to hire some for Tech Data.

Most of the work Netwolves does is with cybersecurity monitoring of medical equipment online. They hire our interns and are interested in developing a model where the intern would then become an apprentice.

Dave Massey at Bealls is looking for ecommerce technicians. In order to fill his need CCIT would maybe have to change the Web Development AS degree to fill that need.

Harper College has an apprenticeship program where the apprentice works for the company 40 hours a week. During that week they attend school 2 days. The company pays the school $2,500 a term for the student to attend. The student and company sign an agreement that states the company pays for schooling and in turn the student must stay at the company 3 years after graduation. This model has been recognized as a best practice.

Chris brought up a website called Synapse (uses a dating site type model, but for business). Good resource for students instead of google to find help for resumes, interviewing tips etc. Susan to review. Maybe add to website or TCC for students to use.

CCIT Department update
Sharon is retiring as of March 2nd. John is Acting Dean at this time while Sharon is on FMLA. On March 12th John will become Interim Dean. The position has not been posted as yet because Sharon was the only Dean for this department so the position description needs to be updated.

Question was asked will this committee continue once there is a new Dean? John answered the new Dean cannot decide that there will no longer be an Advisory Committee. Having the committee is required by the college.

Another question posed was about the Bachelor's Degree and the legislature limiting the percentage of Bachelor's Degrees to 18% of the total enrollment for the college. John answered the concern is that our courses are competing with universities in Florida.

Capstone Dates
April 16th, 17th, 18th 6:00 – 9:00 pm at Clearwater Campus in room ES 104. An invite has been sent and includes information on start time and a campus map to help everyone find the room.

Scholarships
Terri will send an email when the scholarship applications are available for review to ask for volunteers. If you already know you would like to volunteer to review scholarship applications please contact Terri.

New Skills at Work Grant

Some students grow up with role models who can give them advice on how to create a good resume and tips on interviewing. The reality is many students do not have a role model to help with these skills. The NSAW program Karen has created TechCamps (just to clarify this is different than the Xlab) helps students to network and close the skills gap.

Graduates of CCIT cannot find jobs, companies cannot find employees. There is a disconnect which the grant from JP Morgan Chase to partner with SPC is helping to fix. The grant is not only for SPC students, but includes students from USF and South University. The TechCamps students attend once a week for six weeks. The goal is to have each session led by a leader in the Technology field. For example Chris led a session on the Role of IT in an Organization. But NSAW needs more leaders for sessions. Karen needs more of the Advisory Committee members to step up.

There will be a Networking Event on Friday, February 23rd from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at Melitta.

Internships

Richard shared with the group that there are 60 internship applicants for summer term. Programming students are the hardest to place.

Richard also mentioned the Tech Career Summit and the need for companies to be involved. Daniel James Scott will be the Keynote speaker. It was mentioned that Richard should ask Daniel about posting on TBT. Richard will send Terri Information on the Tech Summit to forward to the committee.

Next Meeting

The next Advisory Committee Meeting date will be announced soon. Terri will send an invite as soon as the date has been decided.

Please let Terri know if you will be attending the Workforce Connections meeting on April 10th at 8:00 am. This is the big meeting with all the Advisory Committees it was postponed from September because of Hurricane Irma.

Meeting adjourned – 9:00 am