

**Fire Science Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Lake Tahoe Community College
Zoom**

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting called to order at 3:03 p.m.

Attendees:

Brad Deeds, Dean of Workforce Development and Instruction/LTCC), Battalion Chief Pevenage, Lake Valley Fire Protection District, Amber Goligoski, Program Coordinator Work-Based Learning/LTCC, Nicole Bergner, Career Counselor/LTCC, Adrian Escobedo, Director of Forestry, Fire & Public Safety, and Jamie Rhone, Career & Technical Education Program Specialist/LTCC

General Discussions/Feedback from Industry Partnership:

-Brad conveyed that the Fire Academy staff, students and local agency partners are participating in the California State Fire Training required Firefighter I Test today and the rest of this week. Thus, unable to participate in this meeting. Advisory meetings are set each summer by our Board of Trustee members and the testing dates were not finalized at that time. This is our third cohort of testing.

-Recent equipment purchases made possible by Congressional and Strong Workforce grants for: Mobile Fire Vent Prop (traded-in over a decade old), Mobile Training Tower, Mobile Air Compressor, Fire Blast Car Prop, extractor and dryer for turnout cleaning (will be installed at the back of the Duke Theatre dock for easy access), 2023 F-250 XL Utility Truck, Mobile Cargo Utility Trailer customized by Steve Eisele, newly hired Fire Academy Equipment Coordinator to meet the needs of the Fire Academy program.

-Received approval to purchase (40) Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA) and corresponding equipment and supplies.

-The Fire Academy and Maintenance Operations department are sharing the newly built storage facility which is located behind Physical Education building.

-The college remains dedicated to securing additional Congressional funds to add to the existing local funds, Strong Workforce Job Fund, Tahoe Fund, Tahoe Truckee Community Fund and leverage Forest Service funds to begin the Public Safety Training Center/Complex.

-The college continues to meet with Legislators, Senators and Governor for funding to support the additional funding required to build the Public Safety Training Center/Facility at LTCC to support Fire Academy, Criminal Justice Post Law Enforcement, and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program and classrooms.

-Plus, Public Safety Forestry and Career & Technical Education, offices. This is a multi-phased project and we are in the phase one stage (working on laying Tarmac and erecting a permanent training tower for ground breaking in June 2025). We purchased a new equipment storage facility to house the engines, utility trucks, and various fire academy mobile training props,

-It is a compelling package to train locally verses travelling out-of-state for training. After my eight years at the college, we are at an exciting and good place!

-Our next dream is to pursue a true apparatus bay building.

-Thank you to Lake Valley Fire Protection District and South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue for donating Fire Engines to the Fire Academy.

-Thank you to Lake Valley Fire Protection District for allowing us to use their classroom for recent wilderness education avalanche classes.

-Steve understands budgetary contingency plans. Lake Valley Fire Protection staffing levels are in a good place. We have hired three new Fire Academy graduates. Since the inception of the Fire Academy (2006-2007) we hire a high number of students.

-Nicole mentioned that Anika Schneider, Fire Academy Coordinator/Instructor/LTCC participated in a recent counselor meeting to provide a program update. It was very helpful to the counselors.

-Career Services invites career professionals to participate in panels, video interviews of their education and career journey.

-Reach out to Nicole in Career Services to post jobs and receive career support for the students and community. There are lots of resources for students, staff and community members. Website link:

<https://www.ltcccareerservices.com/forum>

-Amber is attending a regional state education conference and training modules. She will report back with emerging and current programs across the state.

Annual Program Review (APR) & Updates – 2022-2023:

-Brad provided a quick overview of the APRs for Fire Science (small and steady), Fire In-Service local/regional (healthy) and Fire Academy is experiencing a slight dip with new course sequence. In the future, we hope to offer additional stand-alone courses for the Fire Academy. It was necessary to remove some non-required curriculum to add hours for certification testing.

Perkins Funding:

-This funding helps the college provide a Quarterly Textbook Lending Program, which provides textbooks for eligible students who are pursuing a CTE degree or certificate.

Curriculum Updates:

-The new LTCC Fire Academy classes (FIR-170K, FIR-170L and FIR-170M) have been converted from existing special topic classes to regular curriculum classes and the degree and certificate of achievement are both approved for the new academy year (July 1, 2024 – through March 2025).

-Also added Emergency Medical Technical (EMT) and FIR-170K as a prerequisite for FIR170L.

-This is the second academic year running the new (6) month sequence.

-New branding name – Lake Tahoe Community College Fire Academy.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted