

Forestry and Environmental Science Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday May 30th, 2024

3:30pm-4:30pm

Lake Tahoe Community College

Zoom

Attendees: Brad Deeds (Dean of Workforce Development and Instruction/LTCC), Sara Hunter (AA to the Dean/LTCC), Diane Dealey Neill (Executive Director/Forestry Educators Incorporated), Nancy Dalton (Board Member/LTCC), Adrian Escobedo (Director of Forestry, Fire, and Public Safety/LTCC), Nadia Tase (Climate Change & Forest Inventory Specialist/CALFIRE), Christina Restaino (Assistant Professor/UNR), and Richard Kinnett (Instructor/LTUSD)

Industry & Partner Updates:

Nadia:

- Working on multiple projects including a Carbon Modeling project
- Intensification of data collection; have doubled sample lots
- Industry needs more people working in the field of data collection
- Having more established plots would help the forestry program overall and help students build important skills related to reports, projects, and long-term analyses

Richard:

- Data Collection field could be appealing to students wishing to take a gap year; travel, gain more interest into the field

Diane:

- The Forestry Challenge had an outstanding Fall session with 538 students attending
- They are hoping to expand to urban areas through an Urban Forestry Grant

Christina:

- UNR has been focused on Workforce Development with Nevada's High Schools
- Currently offer 3-year vocational Fire Science Program allowing students to graduate high school and immediately enter the fire and land management workforce fields

Program Review and Updates:

Brad:

- Reviewed Forestry and Environmental Science and Technology Annual Program Reviews
- The EVS APR shows significant lower course success rates among LatinX students
- LTCC recently secured the Good Jobs Challenge; supports both Forestry and Fire programs

Adrian:

- The Forestry program served 178 students in 2022-23; awarding 25 certificates and 2 associate degrees
- Having instructors that are also currently working in different areas of the field has shown to be very beneficial to students
- LTCC has had great success with partnerships, and they have been mutually beneficial in building pathways

Adjournment