Spring Progress Report for Appliance Service Technology

Improvement Area #1- Enrollment

In Spring 2020 we again offered all courses in the program to give students who had begun the program before Fall 2020 the chance to complete the program. This included the microwave class which is a short-term class that is usually only run in the fall semester. It was added to the schedule late, to allow students who had missed the fall class to take it. There were 22 new students added to the program in this semester, although enrollment is still below desired levels for individual classes (possibly because, per the outline, we again offered 4 appliance lectures rather than 2 and the fact that the program might not be continued fall semester). Evening enrollment total was 29 with 6 students enrolled in both lecture classes, Day enrollment was 15 with only 1 student enrolled in both lecture classes.

Enrollment for Spring classes

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Acref-045 (morning) | Basic Heating and Cooling Tech | 21 |
| Appli-013 (evening) | Beginning Electrical Appliances | 18 |
| Appli-014 (afternoon) | Advanced Electrical Appliances | 4 |
| Appli-023 (morning) | Basic Refrigeration  | 11 |
| Appli-024 (evening) | Advanced Refrigeration | 11 |
| Appli-021,031,037,038 (Wed. AM) | Combined Lab | 10 |
| Appli-031,038 (Wed. PM) | Refrigeration Lab | 15 |
| Appli-021,037 (Thur. PM) | Electrical Appliance Lab | 15 |
| Appli-046  | Microwave (short term, 3 days) | 8 |

Improvement Area #2 – Scheduling

My plans for the future have always included teaching these classes online. Due to Covid-19 we moved the classes online in mid-March along with the rest of the campus. This has allowed me to see some of what does and does not work. Although it is still a work in progress, I have proposed Fall 2020 lecture classes be online which would therefore require students to come to campus only for labs. I will be attending “How to become and effective online Instructor” the next time it is available (May?). This will allow students more flexibility to fit their studies around job schedules as well as provide students who do not live close to LMC the chance to take our classes without the long commute.

Improvement Area #3 – Workforce

At our advisory committee meeting, industry representatives questioned our LMI Data, especially the wages and the demand for technicians. All company representatives agreed that the wage data is extremely low and that technicians just starting out with a company can expect to earn $50k minimum. As for demand for technicians, Sears, Eralux, Box Appliance and 911 Frig all expressed a desire to hire all the students we can graduate from the program. Eralux would even like to hire the students who are looking to start their own companies in the future (realizing that many do). They see these students as industry partners in the future and beneficial employees in the present and have a desire to form long lasting working relationships with them. (more data to be added as it comes in)

Improvement Area #4 – Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee met via Zoom on April 22, 2020 (minutes and other information attached.

Attended by 8 industry representatives, 4 college representatives and 1 student representative. We also had 1 company that could not attend but who sent responses to questions that where provided to the reps in advance.

This meeting was well attended and there was lively, helpful conversation throughout. Members even stayed longer than the scheduled meeting time to insure we discussed everything needed. Topics included wages, need for technicians, possible internships, COOP Ed and apprenticeship opportunities as well as input on what knowledge they would like our students to leave here with. We also explored ideas on how to increase enrollment. I provided them with information on classes I would like to add and other changes I would like to make, and the information was well received and mirrored many of the ideas they were bringing to the meeting.

If our classes are allowed to continue, with feedback from our advisory committee, I will be looking at offering 8-week courses with information condensed for a faster, more focused completion. We will work with local business to re-establish student participation in the field as Interns, COOP Ed, or Apprentices. I will also continue working on classes to include lecture and lab together as hybrid classes and thereby provide students with a clear path to success, as well as offering classes as non-credit with stacking certificates if possible. To increase enrollment, I will work with our local companies to have them post a link to the college on their websites to help direct people looking to become technicians to us for training. It was also suggested by a member how is on the Pittsburg City Council for public utilities that we work with the high schools in the area to determine which skills being taught at the high schools would transition into the program and do more outreach to the high schools much like auto and welding have done.

This is a draft of the report I am working on for the Spring semester. I welcome any feedback or recommendations you might have about this document and my program.

Thank you

Debbie Winckler