



**COMPUTER SCIENCE AND APPLICATION DIVISION**  
**Advisory Committee Meeting Oct 28, 2022 at 5 pm via Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Anna Chiang, Jonathan Chiu, Dr. Brenda Galvez, Dr. Allison Tom-Miura, Bill Williams, Vicky Seno, Joshua Alvarez, Carlos Ortiz, Kaleab Gorfu, Parvaneh Ghaforyfard, Eva Bitar, Manish Patel, Ashok Patil, Steve Gonsoski, Diane Matsuno, Pat Morris, Laurent Phung, Manish Patel, Bill Williams, Yuen Yuen, Eva Bitar, Laurent Phung and Ed Orejel.

**Committee chair Anna Chiang called the meeting to order at 5 pm.**

**Anna Chiang**

The goal of this Advisory Board meeting is to develop recommendation on programs and to provide liaison between the district and the potential employers. Special thanks to John Grindley (Straight Up Technologies), Jonathan Chiu (City of Los Angeles), Brenda Galvez (La-Tech), Bill Williams (Aerospace), Vicky Seno (SMC), Joshua Alvarez & Carlos Ortiz (Snapchat) for their participation. The Computer Science and Application department at West Los Angeles College wants your help to make our program more responsive to the needs of local businesses. Once a year, we gather a group of computing professionals to help us assess our program. We need to know what employers will expect of our students and how well the classes we are currently teaching meet the needs of employers. Your input will help us keep our programs relevant and will help insure that our graduates will be employable.

**Kaleab Goruf- proposing certificate of achievement in Data Science**

Kaleab Gorfu presented the course content of certificate of achievement in Data Science to the committee, noting the two new courses have been through the approval process. A 9-unit (Data Science Essentials stackable) and an 18-unit (Data Science) certificate of achievement programs were presented to the committee for approval. These programs would help students develop skills in writing computer code and demonstrate computational thinking & skills for data-driven decision making. Students will develop skills at innovative solutions for existing and emerging industries.

The Data Science certificate of achievement provides students with foundational and practical knowledge and training to prepare them for entry-level careers in the field of Data Science.

Vicky Seno presented the current Data Science and Data Analyst certificate programs at Santa Monica College (SMC). She indicated the program, which includes courses such as Principles of Data Science, Python programming and SQL, is very well received, and sections in most of Data Science courses are full.

**\*As required by Roberts Rule of Order, committee member Carlos Ortiz made the motion to approve the both Certificate of Achievement programs in Data Science ( 9-unit and 18-units). Jonathan Chiu seconded it. The motion was approved by a voicing of Yehs by the committee.**

### **Joshua Alvarez and Carlos Ortiz from Snapchat**

Data Analysts at Snapchat, Joshua Alvarez and Carlos Ortiz, discussed their roles as data analysts and work experiences, emphasizing each company may use different tools and strategies and each day at work may be quite different. Some tasks are coding oriented while others are focused on interpreting data in everyday's language. Knowledge in Python, SQL, statistics, machine learning, and Tableau are core skills used by data analysts. Both Joshua and Carlos are graduates of UC Berkeley's Data Science program. Professor Gorfu will be introducing Data 8 course to the Data Science program in spring 2023.

### **Jonathan Chiu from the City of Los Angeles**

Data Analyst Jonathan Chiu from the City of LA demonstrated the use of Microsoft PowerBI to visually present and reveal data information. He stated these data dashboards are created for both management and to the general public providing data transparency.

### **Manish Patel-proposing Certificate of Achievement in Data Analytics**

A Data Analytics Certificate program at West was introduced by Manish Patel. Manish Patel indicated the certificate of achievement in Data Analytics is to help students learn to apply business intelligence to their work skills. For example, data in Excel and Access could be exported to SQL databases, and to PowerBI/Tableau for data visualization and for greater analysis. The certificate of achievement in Data Analytics provides graduates with the skills and knowledge needed for employment in the rapidly emerging field of data analytics, which comprises analyzing and interpreting the datasets now available in a wide range of organizations and industries. Modern data analytics brings together tools and techniques from business, communication, graphic arts, information technology and

statistics to collect, interpret and represent datasets to illustrate concepts and inform decisions.

**\*As required by Roberts Rule of Order, committee member Jonathan Chiu made the motion to approve the Certificate of Achievement program in Data Analytics. Vicky Seno seconded it. The motion was approved by a voicing of Yehs by the committee.**

Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Allison Tom Miura, presented information about the State of California's MESA (Math, Engineering, Science & Art) program which provides funding to increase representing of underserved students in these STEM fields. Only East in our District is a participating member of MESA. Dr. Tom-Miura hopes to prepare a letter of interest and grant proposal to apply for this program & funding. Division Faculty were asked to also participate in the program emphasis to provide mentoring as well as instruction to help students succeed and eventually find employment in these prominent job positions. Professor Gorfu has expressed his interest in participating.

### **Anna Chiang-proposing certificate of achievement in Cyber Security Essentials**

This low unit Certificate of Achievement will provide the fundamentals of Cyber Security for high school and college students who are interested in learning Cybersecurity practice of protecting networks, systems, programs, and data from criminal or unauthorized use. Students will learn skills of configuring operating system security, network security, Internet security, and so on. Students will develop skills at innovative solutions for existing and emerging industries. This certificate is a stackable certificate that will lead to a larger certificate and AS degree in Computer Network and Security Management which have been offered at West since year 2015. Network Security program is one of the most popular and completed certificate programs at West. West also provides free CompTIA Security+ certification exam voucher before completing the program.

Bill Williams (Local corporate IT manager) spoke about hiring IT trends, especially as it pertains to the aerospace industry. Employees are often hired by private contractors first, then may be hired full-time directly by the company. Skills provided by computer security ,passing the CompTIA certificate exam, teamwork skills, and passing of background check, especially for government work, are areas to work on if looking for the increasing in demand cybersecurity IT positions.

**\*As required by Roberts Rule of Order, committee member Ed Orejel made the motion to approve the Certificate of Achievement program in Cyber Security Essentials. Bill Williams seconded it. The motion was approved by a voicing of Yehs by the committee.**

### **Parvaneh Ghaforyard-proposing certificate of achievement in Robotics Essentials**

Parvaneh Ghaforyard gave an update on the Robotics Essentials certificate. The certificate program includes coursework in Python, robotics, Arduino, and engineering. It is very popular with high school students and has already been approved by curriculum committee, it is pending some CTE documents for the State's approval.

**\*As required by Roberts Rule of Order, committee member Ed Orejel made the motion to approve the Certificate of Achievement program Robotics Essentials. Bill Williams seconded it. The motion was approved by a voicing of Yehs by the committee.**

### **Dr Brenda Galvez-LAtech.org**

Dr. Brenda Galvez, a community college counselor and director of LAtech.org (a non-profit) whose goal is to place underserved students in technology positions, introduced her work with this organization and the community colleges. Students who live in the Los Angeles County area, can apply to the organization and receive a mentor and attend academies and bootcamps which equip students to pursue job placement in technology. Underserved student groups might include foster youth, incarcerated, LGBTQ, first generation and immigrant status. Faculty can send interested students to her by email and the student will receive access to the organization's portal. Dr. Galvez also indicated that they track student success and can provide data about former West students who may have used their resources. LA-Tech.org is partnering with Fika Ventures (Fika Tech Career Academy) to host our second Fika Tech Career Academy, a hands-on, 120-hour career development course for 100 students from Los Angeles. All students will receive a stipend to participate in the academy. Each student will participate in custom, creative work sessions, fireside chats and mentorship with seasoned operators from top tech companies in LA and beyond.

Ashok Patil talked about the software program we have used for mobile programming courses. He asked the committee for discussion of direction in selecting resources for students to use for cross platform (mac and android) devices. Suggestions of tools to use were given, but all recommendations emphasized selection of user-friendly tools to develop mobile apps. Azure cloud computing and committee discussion will continue to next month's division meeting of the update of Win Server Hybrid Administration.

**At 7 pm, the Chairperson Anna Chiang asked for a motion to adjourn the Advisory Committee meeting.**



