



Columbia College Fire Science Advisory Committee Meeting

October 15, 2020 at 9:00am - Zoom

Invited: Shane Warner, Andrew Van Hoogmoed, Mark Ferreira, Al Brondolo, Aimee New, B Wilkes, Jerry McGowan, Nick Ohler, R. Dickinson, Michael Murray, Bill Fullerton, Andy Murphy, M. Sowell, Cole Pereira, Matt Gilmore, James Klyn, Bill Barteau, Jen Bick, Kevin Anderson, Steve Amador, Neil Gamez, Nathan Frankhauser, Pete Ryan, Mickey Brunelli, Kurt Rhoades, Robert Laeng, Lee Winton, Danese Pimentel, Molly Day

Those in Attendance: Shane Warner, Andrew Van Hoogmoed, Mark Ferreira, Neil Gamez, Cole Pereira, Nathan Frankhauser, Molly Day, Kevin Anderson, Andrew Murphy, Danese Pimentel, Steve Amador, Jeff Seaton, and Jen Bick

Introductions and Welcome

New Business

- Update on Fire Academy Fall 2020: The Fall CCFA is delivering coursework with online lectures and on campus skills training. The students are motivated and excited about participating in this career field. The online learning platform, Canvas, is being used on a daily bases in order to keep the students on task with the course delivery. Graduation is set for December 10, 2020.
- COVID-19 Instructional Challenges and Distance Education Learning: All safety protocols are followed to protect the students and staff. Screening forms must be completed before the students come to campus for skills practice. Laptops and Wi-fi hotspots were made available to students who needed them. We had a few students drop the first month due to the challenges of Distance Education.
- Local High School College Career Access Pathway Classes (CCAP) are currently offered as Dual Enrollment: Columbia College staff quickly went into action when local high schools declared that they would begin the school year with full Distance Education. Potential CCAP students were directed to online course that were available. Local High School administration gave positive feedback regarding out ability to adapt to the circumstances.

- New FF1 and FF2 curriculum and Fire Officer Courses will need to be created/updated in the new software called eLumen: We are working with the Columbia College curriculum committee to update our curriculum to match the upcoming requirements from State Fire Training. The committee agreed that in order to keep the college in alignment with their accreditation and State Fire Training that these changes need to be made to the curriculum (courses and programs). Program staff have been working with committee members from the California Fire Technology Director's Association for statewide support. Captain Jeff Seaton from the South Bay Regional Public Safety Training Consortium was in attendance and offered additional assistance with curriculum information/requirements if needed. Mark Ferreira requested a copy of the EMR curriculum changes that has raised the units to 3.5 as well as a justification. Cole Pereira mentioned that all Cal Fire employees now have to take Public Safety First Aid and that he would be interested in working with his Chief to offer the course to the EMR students.
- Strong Workforce Application: The Fire Technology Program will be applying for an upcoming Strong Workforce Grant. Funding would support clerical assistance, curriculum building, equipment and promotion of program opportunities.
- Columbia College update on new equipment: The new SCBAs that were purchased in the Spring have been working out great. Tuolumne County Fire Department donated some used turnout gear over the summer and that gear will be used for future trainings at the CDCR training facility. Fall purchases are set to include forcible entry doors, portable air compressor trailer, and a pick up to haul all the gear back and forth to the various training facilities in our county.
- SFM-Instructor to Student Ratios: The ratios are an ongoing issue when trying to find evaluators for the skills exams. We appreciate all the efforts of the evaluators that we currently have, but are looking to increase our list for availability reasons. Bill Barteau spoke up and agreed to assist as an evaluator and will reach out to his staff to inquire if anyone else is qualified. He would like to work together with the college with courses such as Driver Operator 1A/1B to not duplicate agency efforts. Neil Gamez spoke about the State Fire Training ratio changes that will potentially take place in Spring 2021 for the Fire Control 3B curriculum.
- Training Facility Use Agency Partners: Shane Warner shared his great appreciation for our agency partners. We have been allowed to divide up the academy and send them

to different agency locations for skills training. The students value the training time and opportunity to learn from experience professionals.

- Update on Pre-Apprenticeship Program: COVID-19 caused the cancelation of our 2020 workshop series. We have accepted 36 new pre-apprentice applications. We have renewed our linkage agreement with Cal-JAC and have applied to the Division of Apprenticeship Standards to become a registered pre-apprenticeship program with the State of California. We look forward to serving students when the safety regulations are lifted.
- Local Fire Agency Personnel (Needs): Agencies expressed a need for Interns. They are all concerned with how short staffed their departments are. Budget cuts are looming. COVID-19 is an ongoing concern with all first responders. The CDCR Baseline closure that is set for December 2020 was discussed. This closure will not affect our academy training, but it will deeply affect our community as well as the displaced Cal Fire Staff. The Air Attack Base in Columbia will be receiving a new helicopter soon.
- Regional Internship Program: An update was given that College staff have met several times to discuss the logistics of this Program. We will create a small committee to move forward with draft MOUs, detailed workplan as well as the financial framework. Agencies expressed a desperate need for interns. Every agency at the meeting has vacancies.
- Virtual Firefighting (Test Kitchen Lab) Danese Pimentel: Danese gave a short presentation on the project that she has been developing. Virtual Reality that creates a digital simulation of fire. The committee noted that this would be a good training tool to prepare the students for the Fire Control 3B portion of the academy. Committee members were asked to contact Danese for further information about how they can participate in this project.
- Comments: Chief Warner and Captain Van Hoogmoed personally thanked the entire committee for the continued support of the Columbia College Fire Technology program. We are in uncharted waters with the COVID-19 rules and regulations and we appreciate the willingness of the committee to always go above and beyond to support the future of the Fire Service.
- Meeting Adjourned 10:33AM

