School of Math, Engineering, Computer Science, and Game Development
CIS/GAME Advisory Meeting

Minutes

Date: Friday, March 15, 2024
Time: 9:00AM-10:30AM
Room: ATEC-119

Norco Faculty in Attendance: James Finley, Jessiah Ruiz, Sheri Cologgi, Jeff Clendenning, Industry Partners in Attendance: Miracle Thomas, miracle.thomas@edd.ca.gov and Bila Kintaudi, EDD-WSB YEOP, Bila.Kintaudi@edd.ca.gov

1) CALL TO ORDER
2) INSTITUTIONAL UPDATES (Presented by faculty Finley, Ruiz, Clendenning)
   a) Changes made in the curriculum process comes from department/advisory meetings.
   b) Importance of mutually identifying needs of the community/region in CIS/GAME.
   c) Curriculum changes are light this year.
   d) Game Development Curriculum
      i) No updates made to this curriculum.
      ii) Past two years the GAME program has been modernized and now in process of collecting data to evaluate efficacy of changes made to the curriculum.
      iii) Game Development and CIS are set up, so they intentionally do not overlap with one another
   e) CIS Curriculum:
      i) Several changes being made
         (1) Norco College recently adopted Python Scripting program
         (2) Paying extra effort and attention to making sure this program's classes are saturated.
         (3) Adopted because of industry need
      ii) This Fall 2024, there will be a launch of the adoption of the Data Science program.
   f) Graphic Design Curriculum updates:
         (1) Lots of students are interested in this field.
         (2) Working to completely revamp this program to accommodate modern needs.
   g) All programs have undergone a total restructure which allows students the ability to conveniently and reliably enroll in classes and complete programs without any conflicts.
   h) CIS classes taught on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays
   i) Game Development classes taught on Tuesdays and Thursdays
   j) Have changed all offerings to either be hybrid or fully online
      i) Did this not only to make scheduling sensible for students but also embracing that post – COVID, circumstances and people's lives have changed
   k) All classes have moved to the STEM center
   l) Pathways offer deeper collaboration
   m) All classes are also in a single classroom-STEM 115
   n) Changes will improve retention
   o) New student club – mentality which has led to creation and implementation of Game Development Club
   p) Helps students to apply their learning in real – life situations.

3) <u>ADVISORY BREAKOUT DISCUSSION: (Attending employer EDD and faculty Finley, Ruiz, Clendenning)</u>
   a) Workforce Development Discussion topic: IT and computer science in the workforce.
   b) Student Skills Gap:
      i) Students seem unsure about their career path; they need to be directed and guided.
      ii) Students are also unaware how to work on the computers and technology
      iii) Career coaches needed at Norco College
      iv) IT and Computer Science are growing fields
      v) Norco College should expose students to what type of jobs are available in the workforce
      vi) Provide them with resources to write a resume and to better execute interviews that are specifically geared towards this career path
         (1) Hosting workshops would be helpful
   c) Question posed to Employer-EDD: How do students/people hear about you?
      i) Responses from Employer EDD, Miracle Thomas and Bila Kintaudi:
         (1) A lot of people are referred to this company by the actual unemployment office and thus the misconception is we are an employment agency.
         (2) These people think they're in trouble but we are looking to help them and build a career or to find a job.
         (3) EDD provides lots of free resources and programs which provide funding for students for training and employment.
   d) Question to Norco College: Which parts of the program will be included in the upcoming Bachelor's degree?"- Miracle Thomas, EDD
      i) Responses from Norco College faculty:
         (1) Game Development pathway progression
         (2) One major requirement for a Bachelor's degree at CC level is that a program offered cannot be the same program which is being offered by a 4 – year institution, such as Computer Science.
         (3) Usually takes two years to finish constructing a curriculum
   e) Question to Norco College: Do you have to incorporate courses that are not offered in other programs, or do you create your own? Miracle Thomas and Bila Kintaudi, EDD-WSB YEOP
      i) Responses from Norco College faculty:
         (1) It's a mixture of both of those things
         (2) Goal is to create as few stand alone classes, but instead ones that are stackable in multiple certificate and degree pathways.
   f) Question to Norco College: Does Norco College offer a program in Virtual Reality or VR courses?
      i) Responses from Norco College faculty:
         (1) VR not offered as a Norco College specialty
         (2) The subject is briefly covered in other CIS/GAME classes
         (3) Game program exposes students to many applications used in many career fields, less on specialization.
         (4) Hoping to ignite a passion in students to pursue advanced education at CSU or UC schools
         (5) Strategy of holistic approach used
4) <u>CTE Student Achievement (Presented by faculty Finley, Ruiz, Clendenning)</u>
   a. Certificates serve as industry credentials and can be added to students' resumes
      i. Students who are interested in these certificates are looking to be involved in

the industry
1. Popularity of certificates in C++, Java, and Python
2. Utilization of skill sets in Rocketry
3. Norco College runs NASA Consortium program at STEM building

5) <u>WORKFORCE NEEDS</u>
   a) Question from EDD to Norco faculty: Do you believe your students are more open to internships rather than part – time jobs in a specific field?
      i) We have some really cool internships that students have gotten accepted to
      ii) The classic internships are unpaid and would love to grow employer partnerships to offer work-based learning opportunities for students.
      iii) Norco College programs are excellent at flexibility since these jobs can be completed remotely
   b) Question to Norco College from EDD: High demand for warehouse work. A lot of people don't understand that there's more work than just manual labor associated with this field of work. How can we refer people to Norco College and vice versa in order to better equip them?
      i) Response: Our Norco College certificate and degree pathways provide the key skill sets that employers are looking for and prepare students for their careers
         (1) Norco College faculty encouraged EDD to post on our HandShake job platform for job opportunities for students in CIS and GAME.

6) Closing Remarks and conclusion.