

**Wilderness Education & Outdoor Leadership (WEOL)
Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes, April 18, 2024
Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC)
Zoom**

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting called to order at 3:01 p.m.

Attendees: Brad Deeds, Dean of Workforce Development and Instruction/LTCC, Lindsey Shultz, Deputy Director Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA), Nate Smith, WEOL Director/Faculty Lead, Damion Estrada, WEOL Coordinator/LTCC, and Jamie Rhone, Career & Technical Education Program Specialist/LTCC, Jesse McMinn, Student pursuing a WEOL Degree/Instructional Aide/LTCC, and Nancy Dalton, Board of Trustee/LTCC.

General Discussions/Feedback from Industry Partnership:

-Lindsey is delighted to be part of the meeting and looking forward to ongoing collaboration, especially during 2025. They are down one full-time person.

-Nate has more than two decades of teaching experience. This is his second quarter at LTCC.

-Damion is thankful the college is recognizing the Washoe Tribe and their native lands, by including a Land Acknowledgment statement in campus-wide syllabi and other materials.

-Nate launched new website with approval from Enrollment Services to assist students with registration for WEOL classes – www.wildernesseducation.info. Thank you to Kendall Madsen for taking the lead on the project.

-Brad shared relevant Forestry Foundational Skills Certificate which is a low unit stackable certificate and includes WLD.

-Lindsey provided an overview of TRTA educational programs for trail ambassadors, guided hikes, volunteer guides, internships, instructors, crew leaders and Wilderness First Aid (WFA) courses (taught by Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) Wilderness Medicine). Youth education program is robust. Recommends courses such as Wilderness First Responder (WFR) and have an interest in recertification classes.

-Nate conveyed to the group that Zachery Ford, Emergency Medical Services, Faculty Member/LTCC has purview for the WFA and WFR classes.

-Brad shared the California Nevada Interstate Attendance Agreement (CNIAA) and Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) programs to assist with qualifying out-of-state students to lower tuition costs.

-Brad informed that group that credit for prior learning (CPL) partnership is in place with the US Marines Corps Mountain Warfare Training to receive 18.5 units for their training as well as other direct instruction at the base (swiftwater rescue, AIARE 1, etc) for a total of 23.5 units to be earned while on active duty.

-Damion would like to conduct Leave No Trace trainings at area schools. He would also like to thank Dr. Clinton Culp for bringing all of the wilderness education program discussions to the elementary, middle, high schools and the juvenile treatment center.

-Nate: we are launching gateway short introductory classes such as basic hiking and camping classes that are low-unit classes, including outdoor supplies and food to increase access and reduce the cost to students.

-Nate is also meeting with Adam Eynon, Director of Dual Enrollment/LTCC for outreach and collaboration.

-Brad summer jobs continue to be available to South Tahoe High School students through the Generation Green and Forestry program.

-Lindsey currently working on initiatives to remodel and translate trailhead information kiosks in Spanish and English to improve access and inclusion in the wilderness. Collaboration is ongoing with the Washoe Tribe.

-Nancy Dalton recognizes efforts of this team and is thankful for the outreach programs.

Annual Program Reviews & Updates:

-The demographic data shows the student population is non-diverse when compared with programs across campus, and equity gaps exist for Hispanic/Latinx students. Our charge is to continue to increase our numbers of diverse enrollees and completers, utilize targeted recruitment to students and staff and share with our partners. There are many campus resources and support programs that are having a positive and high impact for our community.

Curriculum Updates:

-Nate partnered with Kendall to submit these new low unit special topic courses, pending approval for the 2024-2025 Academic Year:

- WLD 131BV: Backpacking: Beginning (1.5 units)
- WLD 131BW: Backpacking: Intermediate (1.5 units)
- WLD 131AX: Camping: Beginning (1.25 units)
- WLD 131AW: Hiking: Beginning (0.5 units)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

Respectively submitted