

Minnesota West Community & Technical College  
Child Development Program  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
April 7, 2010

Present: Gail Goltz, Marge Knudson, Darcy Kleven, Melanie Schultz, Sharon Rasmussen, Laine Rieger

Site: The Granite Grinder, Granite Falls

Laine gave the following update on the program:

Certificate – very few students seek this. Some default to it if obstacles prevent them from completing the Diploma.

Diploma – About half of the students seek this degree. They primarily have the goal of working in a Child Care Center as an Infant, Toddler, or Preschool teacher. We are seeing an increase in students who have a goal of establishing their own Family Child Care.

A.S. – There is growth in this area. Not all intend to complete a Bachelor's degree. We had our first group start with the SMSU off-site cohort for Early Childhood licensure during the Fall of 2009. It seems to be a smooth transition, and the students are doing well. They are well-prepared both in terms of content and also familiarity with the D2L platform for on-line learning.

The student group has diversity in terms of age. There are more non-traditional students, and also students who are part-time. This is a significant change from even six years ago, when many students were young traditionals, on a full-time track. Because of the cost of college, students are tending to take fewer credits/semester, and working more hours.

The Legislature has mandated that Associate's degrees be reduced to 60 credits. Input was requested on suggested changes/eliminations. The group reviewed the present degree requirements, and looked how changes might impact all three degrees. Suggestions include eliminating CPR/1<sup>st</sup> Aid/AED, because this is much more reasonably priced through community education. Several commented that they offer the training "in-house". There was a great deal of discussion about CSC1102 Introduction to Micro-computers. Some stated that this was an unnecessary course because high school students are so familiar with computers. Others thought that technology was constantly being updated, and this would help address that need. One said that non-traditional students would benefit from it. There was no consensus.

Other questions/comments:

Am I still working with CDA candidates? I replied in the affirmative, and that they take a core group of courses, but the choices are tailored to the individual.

Head Start education requirements have been increased. There were inquiries about the program working with staff who have non-education degrees. I encouraged either directors or the individuals to contact me, and I would assist them with seeing how their credits fit into our A.S.

The meeting was closed with my verbal thanks, and a gift of a Minnesota West t-shirt.

Submitted by Laine Rieger