

Environmental Horticulture & Sustainability Advisory Meeting
March 3, 2020
Laura Lee Room

ATTENDANCE

Nathan Campbell, Danville Gardens; Terri Cummings, DACC; George Hickman, DACC; Dave Kietzmann, DACC; Amanda Krabbe, DACC; Kent Miles, Illinois Willows; Isela Rangel, DACC; Anderson Reynolds, Danville Gardens

REPORTS

Amanda gave a report on the status of the Environmental Horticulture program. Enrollment is up slightly from previous years. Majority of students are looking for Golf Course Management, even though the field is not growing in this area it is expanding in other areas of the country like Nevada. Retirements at local golf courses in the area are opening positions not previously available. This program is also expanding with LED lighting for growing, due to the new interest in growing cannabis.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Many recruitment ideas that have been implemented and tried this last year. Including, but not limited to: flowers and a note about horticulture to the high school counselors in the district, contacting leaders of the DACC golf teams, presentations at AG Day and DACC Discover Days, radio show spots, presenting in GEN ED classrooms over the summer, just to name a few initiatives. Some additional ideas that were discussed at this year's meeting such as live videos for Facebook, youtube videos showing a quick skill, banners highlighting HORT/SUST students.

George talked about the development of the Cultivation and Compliance Certificate. Some items he is implementing to generate student interest is using a USB Microscope so students can see items under the microscope up on the large screen and they can talk about it. He would like to build a mini windmill charger to charge cell phones. Other suggestions is to develop courses that implement cross listing courses, for example Illinois Natural History could be developed so it would count as a History course and as a Sustainability course.

The Land Lab on Daisy Lane has been a big part of both Horticulture and Sustainability. This lab has been instrumental in teaching students how to utilize permaculture, put in raised beds and perennial beds, plant walnut trees that are flood tolerant, a children's garden and firepit has been installed as well as a green house, the pot holes and low areas have been filled in. George wants to build a water tower with a generator to help with watering. There is still a lot more work to do. The HORT/SUST team rely heavily on Student Workers/Work Study Students and volunteers. Last year there were a total of 2,026 volunteer hours.

The HORT/SUST team did apply for a Grant for the land lab, but it was denied. The grant would have been for a Part-time person to work on the labs, implement IPM practices, consult professionals, and organize everything so that George and Amanda could focus on teaching. There seems to be a need for this sort of position, but will have to be discussed with the administration at DACC to promote the need of hiring someone.

Plant sale will be April 24, 2020 from 9am-2pm.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

The HORT/SUST programs are always in search of internships. Danville Gardens expressed an interest in hiring students. Each student must complete 240 hours of internship.

DATE of NEXT MEETING

Spring 2021

MINUTES SUBMITTED by:

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa J. Osborne

Lisa J. Osborne
Administrative Assistant
Business and Technology