

Respectfully Submitted: Amy Moberg and Heidi Haagenson

Program Advisory Board Input- Horticulture Mind map on the Board

Strengths:

Location

Diverse Degree Programs

Vocational- Hands on

Sense of community

Staff

 Knowledgeable

 Helpful

Weakness:

Facilities

Lack of marketing

Perception of negative vocational education

Division Chair Input

What values do we preserve at all costs and what are we striving for?

Values to preserve at all costs:

(1) small class sizes

(2) availability of instructors as career mentors - not just the instructor as being seen as "the teacher"

(3) close ties with future employers out in the community - not just externships/internships but also for currency and relevancy of what we are teaching

(4) capstone projects to demonstrate knowledge & skills learned, but also as something to show future employers

(5) internships/externships to cement class/lab skills in the actual work environment

(6) TECH (and health, admin, etc) focused: the hands-on skills that develop from the book knowledge

(7) Small class sizes should continue to be a high priority, as it is really something that has made us unique.

(8) We need to continue to foster a sense of community. Many colleges have lost this, and I believe a feeling of belonging will also help in retention.

(9) We need to have enough support staff to allow

 1) faculty to continue to get to know their students; 2) students to feel important.

What we are striving for:

(1) retaining the application portion of a tech education: the practical education that comes in-conjunction with (or sometimes after) the book learning

(2) maintaining our uniqueness

How is Anokatech distinct from Anoka Ramsey and vice versa?

ATC is different from ARCC in regards to

(1) Demographics. ATC students are older; more likely to have familial responsibilities (children); more likely to be here for a "2nd chance" - previously incarcerated, recovering addiction, 2nd career; earned their GED; learning / psychiatric / cognitive disability (not diagnosed in K-12)

(2) Terminal focus: ATC: immediate employment in field of study; ARCC: transfer to 4-year for Bachelor's, earning degree for upward career movement

(3) In many trades - ATC students seem to have more autonomy-driven career goals, especially like focusing on opening their own shop within "5 years"

Around 15-20% of my students are primarily ARCC students that come over here to take biology. It seems like all of them like ATC better (at least, I haven't heard anyone say they like ARCC better). One or two said they wish they knew about ATC before they started a program at ARCC! Here are some of their comments.

- The science lecture sizes are so much smaller (this has made us unique for several years, but unfortunately, we will be switching to the more standard 48 person lecture next fall).

- The instructors at ATC seem to take more time to get to know their students at a personal level. At ARCC, some students feel like a "number."

- There is a much better sense of community here.

- The student population is older at ATC, which many students really like. They don't feel out of place here, where they feel "old" at ARCC due to the high number of PSEO and just out of high school students.

- The staff at ATC (according to the students) are much more helpful and don't treat students like a "number."