

Program Review – Annual Program/Discipline Update  
**Administrative Response and Follow Up**  
2020-2021

**Program/Discipline:**

SAC Chair(s): Elizabeth Brewster

SAC Administrative Liaison: Andrew Roessler

Other Division Dean(s): -

Department Chair(s): Jennifer Peters

Date: 4/21/2021

**Administrative Response**

Thank you to the Landscape Technology (LAT) Team for your service and dedication to students, partners, and Portland Community College. During this extraordinary year, you have shifted all but a few classes to the remote modality. You have gone to significant lengths to bring learning experiences like plant identification walks, site evaluation activities and irrigation installation into remote instruction. Landscape students have clearly responded to these efforts, as fill rates have increased over last year. In addition, you have worked to maintain the Landscape Technology facilities and managed to complete the planting of 100+ trees on Rock Creek Campus. Beyond your dedication to LAT students, there are many examples where you step up to volunteer your expertise to make the college a better place. A few examples include your consultation on Capital Construction projects and ensuring the college meets requirements to maintain its Tree and Bee Campus USA designations. Thank you for providing high quality instruction to your students and for all your contributions to the college community.

This Administrative Response will:

1. Address your strengths and successes of the program as evidenced by the data, your analysis and your reflection.
2. Provide areas of challenge or concern.
3. Address your reflection on goals and resources.
4. Recommendations for your next steps.
5. Additional comments and questions.

**1. Landscape Tech SAC Strengths and successes of the program as evidenced by the data, analysis and reflection:**

As Landscape Technology piloted the Annual Program Update Parts A and B in 2019-20, a complete data analysis was submitted last year.

The LAT team has a vision for building accessible and equitable pathways into the LAT program for the Lantinx community. Over the recent past, the LAT program delivered non-credit workshops on a variety of topics in Spanish to incumbent workers. These workshops were well-received by industry and an excellent step to measure the program's ability to offer LAT content in Spanish. Potential next steps could be to evaluate what courses may lend to bilingual delivery and assess which faculty may have the language skills to instruct in this way. The instructor currently teaching Irrigation classes may be a resource for this type of project. Additionally, we feel there is good potential to develop an LAT Integrated Education and Training (IET) pathway with the goal to support students language and basic skills needs while they pursue an LAT credential, similar to Facilities Maintenance's HVAC Installer IET.

The Landscape Technology team embraces a sense of accountability for embedding sustainability and environmental stewardship across the curriculum. Beyond the LAT classroom, the team is to be commended for their leadership in college-wide initiatives related to stormwater management, pollinator habitat education, tree planting, and supporting the development of learning gardens across the district.

Despite the LAT Advisory Board not being able to meet formally last fall, Landscape Technology continues to maintain strong partnerships with industry and community partners. The Team clearly recognizes how these partnerships lead to amazing opportunities for Landscape Technology students. It will be great to reconnect with the Advisory Board later this spring to get their perspective on the industry and give an update on the program.

**2. Landscape Tech SAC Areas of challenge or concern, if any:**

At this time there are no areas of concern from an academic perspective. In terms of Landscape Technology facilities there are two areas of concern we would like to highlight. .

(1) While the LAT Instructional Support Technician has been granted exceptional access to campus and has done a good job maintaining Landscape Technology facilities, her hours have been limited. Further to this, we typically have a crew of casual workers available to assist in maintaining the facilities but have not had this in place during remote operations. Due to these limitations we anticipate a need for additional resources to bring LAT facilities back to pre-pandemic condition when we transition back to campus operations.

(2) The LAT facilities were set up with significant resources devoted to plant cultivation. Relics, such as the large green houses, remain from this era of the program. While these resources do serve some purpose, the focus of LAT instruction has shifted and students come to the program in pursuit of Landscape Design, Landscape Technology, and Environmental Landscape Management Technology credentials. In the coming years it will be important for the LAT

Program team and administration to develop a plan for updating the facilities to better align with student needs.

### **3. Reflection on goals and resources:**

It is insightful and will be valuable to evaluate how remote operations can inform future delivery of LAT classes. The pandemic has forced students and faculty to reconsider the possibilities for how the educational process can unfold. As you plan for the future we encourage you to reach out to students in a meaningful way to assess their needs and explore what aspects of remote learning have worked well for them .

Thank you for recognizing the importance of the Latinx workforce in the Landscape Industry and the potential for meeting their professional development needs. As mentioned in Section 1 we recommend exploring the potential for developing an (IET) pathway that supports the basic skills and language needs of students. We believe there is potential for an IET partnership with the Career Pathways, Adult Basic Skills and ESOL.

We agree that the Landscape Technology and Building Construction Technology programs need a drafting lab that supports Computer-Aided Design (CAD). Prior to the pandemic administration had worked with the BCT and LAT Programs on a budget estimate for furniture and equipment and identified a potential location for the lab, then engaged Capital Construction in space planning. As the college reorganizes, it will be important to share this project with incoming administration so momentum for this project is maintained. Earlier this spring the request for equipment and furniture was included in the districtwide CTE resource list as a high priority.

Thank you for including the objectives related to equitable student support, improved employment outcomes and delivering skills-based classes for industry. Administration looks forward to working with you as plans for advancing these objectives solidify.

### **4. Recommended next steps:**

Proceed as planned on program review schedule

Follow up conversation needed with SAC, Dept Chair(s) and Dean

### **5. Additional comments/questions:**

Thank you for adapting your assessment for remote operations and the overview of how you carried out the assessment. The Learning Assessment Council raised the issue of LAT not including a focal outcome report this year. While we hope you will be able to carry out the focal outcome assessment F2F, we appreciate the plan you have shared for carrying out the assessment remotely.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to PCC students, faculty and staff. This past year has been challenging. Thank you!