



- Budziak discussed the college staffing and budgeting processes that include evaluating program needs and expenses as well as determining whether existing FT faculty and adjunct faculty are sufficient to support the program.

d. Illinois Cannabis Vocational Pilot Program Update

The college had a partnership with a grow site located in Rockford in 2022 which the college decided to end. Students were provided tuition refunds and were able to complete. The college is pivoting away from cannabis and steering towards hemp production and holds a license for Illinois Department of Agriculture for Hemp Production. Currently the college has applied for processing through the IDOA so hemp can be handled. The hemp courses are being held on campus taught by our Agricultural Adjunct Instructor Dr. Sean Walters.

e. Student News – *Catherine Marsh and Janet Gallagher*

- Horticulture student Christine Poltz received 4<sup>th</sup> place Excellence in Landscape Award at the ILCA Design Contest.
- American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD) is the accrediting body for floral design and through membership, the college is a part of this Arts and Residence program. AIFD funds a volunteer to visit the college once a year to work with the students. Last week a guest designer came in from Detroit Michigan and designed floral dresses with the students.

f. Facilities, Equipment, and Supplies

Over the past year there has been challenges to plants in the greenhouse. Diagnostic work has included:

- Testing media, water, vegetative growth, and fertilizer
- Replacing dechlorinator
- Identifying two small gas leaks
- Adding a stack on rtu unit in greenhouse to lift exhaust away

Fredrickson made a recommendation to look and age of furnaces and check for proper combustion.

Moving forward with plans for the spring 2023 plant sale as long as the plants maintain healthy growth. A thank you to all the members that have helped in trying to remedy and trouble shoot issues in the green house. Committee is invited to take a tour of the green house.

g. Upcoming Events

- i. Career Technology Open House – April 5<sup>th</sup> 5p-7p
- ii. Plant Sale – Online: 5/6-5/9; In-Person: 5/11 & 5/12

## II. Employer Feedback & Discussion

a. Industry Update

Committee members state retail is up, sales are stable but general labor is still needed. Companies are promoting from within, but staffing middle management and sales staff is a struggle. Equipment has replaced some of the labor shortages.