**Northland Pioneer College Welding Advisory Committee**

**November 13, 2013, 11:30 – 1:00**

**Snowflake/Taylor Campus**

In attendance: Jac Johnson, Miller; Tom Zeigler, Kevin Westfall, CAID Industries; Jerry Sill, Lincoln Electric (phone); Doreen Peters, SRP (phone); Val Baumann, APS/Cholla; Christopher Susag, APS/NCCER; Lisa Aragon, NAVIT; Frank Pinnell, Curtis Casey, Randy Hoskins, William Tompkinson, NPC Welding; Howard Nobles, NPC Metal Arts; Jeremy Raisor, NPC Career Services; Royce Kincanon, NPC Business and Industry Training; Dawn Palen, NPC Academic Advisor; Sandy Manor, NPC Disability Services; Ann Hilliard, NPC Carl Perkins Grant Manager.

Curtis Casey opened the meeting with welcome and introductions. Minutes from last meeting approved. Recognized CAID Industries attending for the first time:

Kevin Westfall and Tom Zeigler from CAID Industries – CAID is in the midst of growth and expansion. We are adding 40,000 sq. ft. to the shop, total now is 230,000 sq. ft. In the next few months, we are going to need welders, fabricators, CWIs, and a project assistant in the training/operations support area, plus draftsmen, engineering positions.

Kevin -- CAID has hired a few guys from the NPC program. They have been outstanding additions to our company. Tom -- I’ve spent 35 years with CAID. Just want to visit, talk with your students, do some recruiting.

Curtis -- CAID sponsors very closely focused welding workshops in summer, in Tucson; Association for Career and Technical Education-AZ, for teachers from around the state. CAID supports these workshops with materials, presentations on welding procedures.

Curtis commented that committee member Val Baumann is an alumnus of the NPC Welding program, now a chrome-moly welder at APS Cholla power plant – first NPC gold medalist at AZ Skills USA, went on to win 5th place at National Skills.

Curtis demonstrated a device called an “eco-gate” that senses when power is going to your unit, opens up to exhaust only when needed. Might save us on electrical costs of our vent systems (variable speed motors), and will improve our gas recapture for recycling. Will be investigating possible savings vs. costs for our three shops.

Industry updates – Jerry (Lincoln) – we are rolling out a new process for aluminum to allow for thinner and thinner wire feed welding, both robotic and standard welding.

Jake – new Dynasty 280 – Syncrowave replacement with inverter. Syncrowave 210 for stick welding, replaces Syncrowave 200. Same platform as Millermatic 212 or 222. Price point $2600 -$2700.

Frank Pinnell – we have purchased a couple of the Miller 280’s.

Frank Pinnell – 14 NPC students since May 2013 have gone to work for Pipefitters Union in Phoenix and have been successful. The students who want to go to work, and who are willing to move, we are able to find placement for.

Some employers are insisting on experience. Some of our regional employers such as the power plants at Joseph City, St. Johns, and Page do realize that our NPC program provides extensive classroom and hands-on instruction, beyond most programs elsewhere. Internships would be a very big help to NPC. Many employers are looking for experience as well as the certifications, so internships would be a great way for students to get that on-the-job experience.

Royce Kincanon– I am talking with Kinder Morgan, planning a gas pipeline heading up to I-40 area. They are permitting that direction and toward El Paso. Another potential employer is NovoPower – they tell me they have heard of NPC Welding, but they in turn use other subcontractors for labor during shortage. We are trying to promote all aspects of the college when we talk with these prospective employers.

Curtis – please let employers know that our NPC students receive almost twice as much direct instruction as regular high school or even college/tech school programs. They are used to doing a variety of tasks, cleaning up, helping wherever is needed.

Tom Zeigler -- I will bounce this idea off people in our company to see if there’s any opportunity to provide internships or job shadowing.

Randy – Skills Center Update – NPC is building a Skills Center in Holbrook, which will house the Industrial Maintenance & Operations, Mechatronics, and Welding programs. We have 20 weld booths, almost 2X size as at the previous location, space for instructor and large materials. We are scheduled for a December 4 walkthrough. Starting Dec 16 the Holbrook welding shop will disassemble our existing Welding shop. The final move will be during Christmas break. We start spring semester classes Jan 4.

Question: will there be public open house? Ans: sometime in March will be the official open house.

Q: Do NPC students graduate only once a year? Typically the NAVIT students graduate in May. However we have adult students with some welding background, going to night school, who get specific certifications and are ready to move into employment within a semester or less. Please let us know what openings you have and we will spread the word among our students.

Randy – we try hard to have the students set goals, make work applications ahead of time, arrange accommodations, be ready to go as soon as school ends in May.

CAID is looking for 3 in. plate, then schedule 40 pipe – bread and butter is flux core, 2 and 3d. For Raytheon project, aluminum 3/8 “ plate.

Tom – we are also looking for an assistant to Kevin. Kevin works so hard, helping new guys coming in – training, mentor, coach, spend time in the booth with the guys, teaching sub arc, orbital, flux core. We are looking for employees who want to work in a diverse environment, want to be part of a growing concern. CAID has 240 employees and growing.

Kevin --When it comes to experience – I look even more at attitude, heart, desire to learn and further themselves. All the skills in the world won’t overcome lack of ability to get along, or willingness to push themselves.

Curtis – for the assistant position, we have several outstanding alumni, have been out 5 or 10 years, might be some good prospects. We’ll get the word out.

Howard Nobles -- Beginning, intermediate, advanced Metal Arts. Intermediate goes into non-ferrous. We forge, rivet, fabricate. Advanced metal art – done by hand; many items forged from single piece of metal. Railroad spikes, leaf springs, salvaged materials. Showed a medieval helmet, treasure chest, Scandinavian candleholder, chisels, forged knife.

* SKILLS USA – plan to groom and take 3 students to spring SKILLS in Metal Arts, and we are hoping to capture 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.
* One student fabricated a grill for 1939 T-Bucket from scratch. He has also sold his pieces at craft shows.
* The treasure box was made by hand – decorated top, lock, key. Copper lobster – 74 pieces – on display.
* Danielle – lab assistant at Frank Pinnell’s St. Johns welding shop. Has a lot of potential and likes floral designs.
* NPC Metal Arts students have been very successful in competitions. Usually we compete with ourselves. Metallurgy – 3 hour class, was very successful; learned to harden, temper, avoid cracking. Goal is that if were in the field, could quickly fashion a repair from existing materials that would keep equipment working until a permanent fix can be installed.
* One student – 5 semesters – is now interested in teaching blade making course.
* We now have a person who is interested in teaching beginning Metal Arts at the new Skills Center.
* We have a lot of artists who are doing metal pieces and have to send them to Prescott to be cast. So a foundry course is in the works as soon as Howard can fit it into his schedule.
* Very diverse program – ferrous and non-ferrous, teach application of all skills so they can cross over and work on many different projects.
* What days and time frames? Monday through Thursday -- 6 to 10 p.m. My background is armor making, but I have developed my skills in blade making. Summer time – I take my top 5 students to art shows. They learn how to present themselves and communicate with the potential customer.

Frank Pinnell –This year is the 40th anniversary of NPC – fund raisers for student scholarships. Goal is to raise $40,000 total. Pedal the Petrified. Will have a Pro-Am golf tournament at Torreon, end of July 2014. Will be asking for participation and sponsorship. July 27 & 28, Monday and Tuesday. Jac will participate. CAID might be interested as well.

The NPC welding program built bike racks and then donated them to the Petrified Forest, as the Park did not have any.

Jeremy Raiser -- Completer Ceremony and Welding Career Day, May 8, 2013 – In Spring 2013, several students made some career decisions and found jobs from the first Welding Career Day. Highest satisfaction scores, both from industry and student participants, of any career day event I’ve coordinated. Students will have their resumes and portfolios, ready to go to work.

Potential employers are invited to attend Welding completer ceremony, and then be part of the Career Day immediately following.

We have one instructor who teaches a unit on plastic fusion welding. We have now purchased our own fusion machine – 1 inch up to 6 inch – gives students an understanding – rotates through all three shops during the spring semester.

Two students of ours got a job maintaining a 100,000 sq. ft. building in man camp in North Dakota – had the opportunity to demonstrate plastic welding skills. One student told us he will be there total of 28 months, figures will have opportunity to make $300,000. Copper mines use plastic welding extensively.

Christopher Susag – Mohave CC – has been asked to be on Advisory Board for the college’s Welding department.

Curtis -- Some of you are new to our group as advisory members. NPC has developed a guide for advisory groups which I would like to take a few minutes to review.

The Advisory Committee Guidelines are in the Committee packet, along with the curriculum and 2012-2013 Annual Report for the Department. Also Student Grade Sheets to show skill attainment. We offer NCCER Level I, Level 2, Level 3 welding. NCCER and AWS S.E.N.S.E. school.

Our Advisory Committee members in past years have been absolutely essential in assisting us in finding consumables/materials to run our program at the speed and level of practice we want to for the students to build skills efficiently.

We calculate it takes about $2 per hour per student to fully utilize students’ practice time. We are at about $0.90 per student per hour in our current budget. Consumables, donations make such a difference.

Tom – I’ll talk with you after the meeting; we may have some materials to donate.

Val – I’ll check at Cholla – see who I need to talk with to see if we can donate some rod.

NPC has a great program – we have always had to philosophy we can get better –we would be most interested in different ideas for our students and our program. We value and welcome your ideas.

Jerry will contact Carpenter’s Union – may have some donations for NPC.

Jac – I am interested in learning what Alex D. has done in the past for NPC Welding?

Howard – any help you can offer in finding materials; we need carbon steel, we can also take iron, sucker rods, etc.

Next meeting: Holbrook NPC Skills Center, March 12 or March 19. Will send out email with minutes, and you can vote for your preferred dates