Northland Pioneer College Welding Advisory Committee

May 14, 2014

Painted Desert Campus Skills Center, Holbrook, Arizona

Miller Electric: Jac Johnson; TEP: Rick Ryan; Arizona Department of Education: Oscar Olivas, Program Trades Specialist; Caid Industries:KevinWestfall, Tom Zeigler (via phone)

NPC: Curtis Casey, Frank Pinnell, Randy Hoskins, William Tomkinson, Raymond Deskins, Welding Faculty; Cyli Geisner, Jonathan Noekideneh, Jennifer Bichitty, Welding Alumni and Lab Aides; Peggy Belknap, Dean, Career and Technical Education; Sammy Harris, Automotive Faculty; Ann Hilliard, Grant Manager.

Department Co-Chair Frank Pinnell opened meeting with welcome; participants introduced themselves.

Minutes approved.

Industry Updates:

Kevin – thanks for having us visit the Completers Ceremony and Career Fair. Got lots of good resumes and enjoyed being there. Caid is building new facility in Tucson and are looking for CNC/Operators and for entry level Welders. Looking for Certified Welding Instructor also.

Jac – Phoenix – JV Driver --just built huge facility at Broadway and 19th Ave– employing pipe welders. Working with Mesa Community College. Purchased a couple of Miller Pipe Works , does MIG, TIG, Stick. Working on getting RMD process approval. Inside Core, a weld tracking device program has just come out. Plugs into remote and tracks welding history and parameters. Uploads it to a cloud so a supervisor can take a look at each weld. We now have a training device called LiveArc. It plugs into any 14-pin remote– live welding system. Gives instantaneous feedback as student welder is laying down a bead. At end of weld it will give the student a score, using special calibrated gun and overhead cameras to assess the quality of the weld.

Rick – please let me know if TEP can help supply NAVIT program with scrap, welding rod, boiler –

Curtis – we could also use excess tin rod – chrome alloy – very costly to procure.

Oscar – Skill Center facility is fabulous. Faculty and NPC staff are to be commended for the work you’re doing. Am also impressed that everything is instructor driven; there are a multitude of partnerships in evidence here today.

Frank – We know Oscar through SkillsUSA – he has been taking students to the event for years and is on board of directors; had students as officers at state and national level. Willing to help with anything to do with SkillsUSA.

Completers Ceremony and Career Fair – Held May 8 at Performing Arts Center in Snowflake/Taylor. Tom Caid of Caid Industries was keynote speaker; all students gave a sixty second overview of their skills and future career plans, then instructors commented on students’ accomplishments. Students on Friday commented about how much they enjoyed Mr. Caid’s speech and getting to learn more about the employment opportunities there.

Jac – what do you do differently from other organizations to prepare students to present good resumes, interview for jobs? Randy --Resume writing is part of the Welding curriculum. Mock interviews are a standard feature, several times each year. Jac – NPC welding students are way beyond other groups.

Curtis – we have a tradition as welding faculty to get together after the end of each year and evaluate what worked and what didn’t in the program that year. We learn from each other, adopt best practices, and each tries to outdo the other the following year!

Jac --It’s also important for welders to be familiar with basic computer skills, since so much technology is imbedded in the field. I’m glad to hear you are having your students learn to apply online, manage files, and other tasks on the computer.

Curtis Casey – I’ve been full time with NPC for 14 years; teaching part time 4 years before that. This has been the best job I’ve ever had; I received support from administration, assistants, and colleagues. I will be moving into semi-retirement, spending more time in the Valley. Thanks to all of you for your support. Am very appreciative of lab aides and assistants. Peggy, we’ve never had a more consistent, direct, and needed leader than you have been. Thanks for the opportunities. NPC is looked at as a “jewel” in this high desert area; I don’t know of any other school that offers all we do in one packages. This gives students an advantage in their careers and their lives.

Peggy – we cannot replace Curtis Casey. We will fill the position, but he has had a unique impact on students and on the college.

Capital equipment report – replaced 2 welders in each shop, updated with combination

New pipe beveller and track cutter; all three shops have new plasma cutters; Perkins working on new band saws for each location since ours are worn out.

Taste of Welding Workshop – High School Ag and welding teachers – 15 instructors for one week; experience all the processes – Stick, MIG, Plasma Cam & automation, TIG, aluminum. The advantage to NPC is to contribute to welding quality of state high school education. We have been modeled in a few more schools I am aware of;

In 2000, first year we started, attended SkillsUSA – took gold medal first three years. At that point some high schools wanted to visit our facility and see why we were so successful. Ron from Yuma visited and took some ideas back. Emulated some of our techniques, in year 4 one of his students took the state gold.

Oscar – it has become a workshop everyone’s looking forward to. Full attendance – 20 participants have already signed up. Makes a difference to state educators.

SkillsUSA – We took 60 total students from college, Fire Science, Cosmetology, Welding, Automotive. Fourteen medals; several were in leadership. In skills, all welders finished in top 50%.

Next meeting: November 12, Silver Creek Campus, Snowflake/Taylor.

Peggy – thank you all for giving us the input we need to train students and prepare them for their futures.

Nine of students dropped off resumes to Caid, two have been contacted for interviews.

Ann – students were most impressive when they gave their summary of skills and their future goals.

Oscar – it’s good to see that the NPC program encourages women to enter welding. I will be getting in touch with Jennifer and Cyli to perhaps speak with groups of teachers and about attracting and retaining women in the field. Cyli --It helps that you have a woman as a lab aide to help woman students.